Immaculate Conception at 100 Years

The Name of Immaculate Conception

This is the title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary as sinless from her first moment of existence. Pope Pius IX made this solemn definition in 1854: "The most holy Virgin Mary was, in the first moment of her conception, by a unique gift of grace and privilege of Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ the Redeemer of mankind, preserved free from all stain of original sin." This means that from the first moment of her human existence the mother of Jesus was preserved from the common defect of separation from God, which came to man through the sin of Adam. Her freedom from sin was an unmerited gift of God or special grace which no other created person has received.

First Pastor
1914 - 1953

Rev. Msgr. Anthony Briška

Born: July 9, 1885
Arrived in the United States: 1908
Ordained by Archbishop James Quigley of Chicago: 1912
Died: September 2, 1953

While Father Briška sacrificed greatly to keep the Lithuanian heritage alive in the United States, he never forgot Lithuania itself, either. While caring for the needs of his growing new parish, he also sought to found a house for Lithuanian priests and seminarians studying in Rome. "We must have our Catholic priests ready when Soviet Russia moves out, in order to help Lithuania, a Catholic country," he stated (notice in The Guardian, the Catholic paper of Little Rock, Arkansas, April 18, 1947, p. 6). He named his new institution after St. Casimir.

For these and other apostolic efforts, Father Briška was given the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medal and named a Knight of the Holy Sepulcre. In 1949, Pope Pius XII gave him the title Very Reverend Monsignor. He is buried in St. Casimir Cemetery in Chicago.

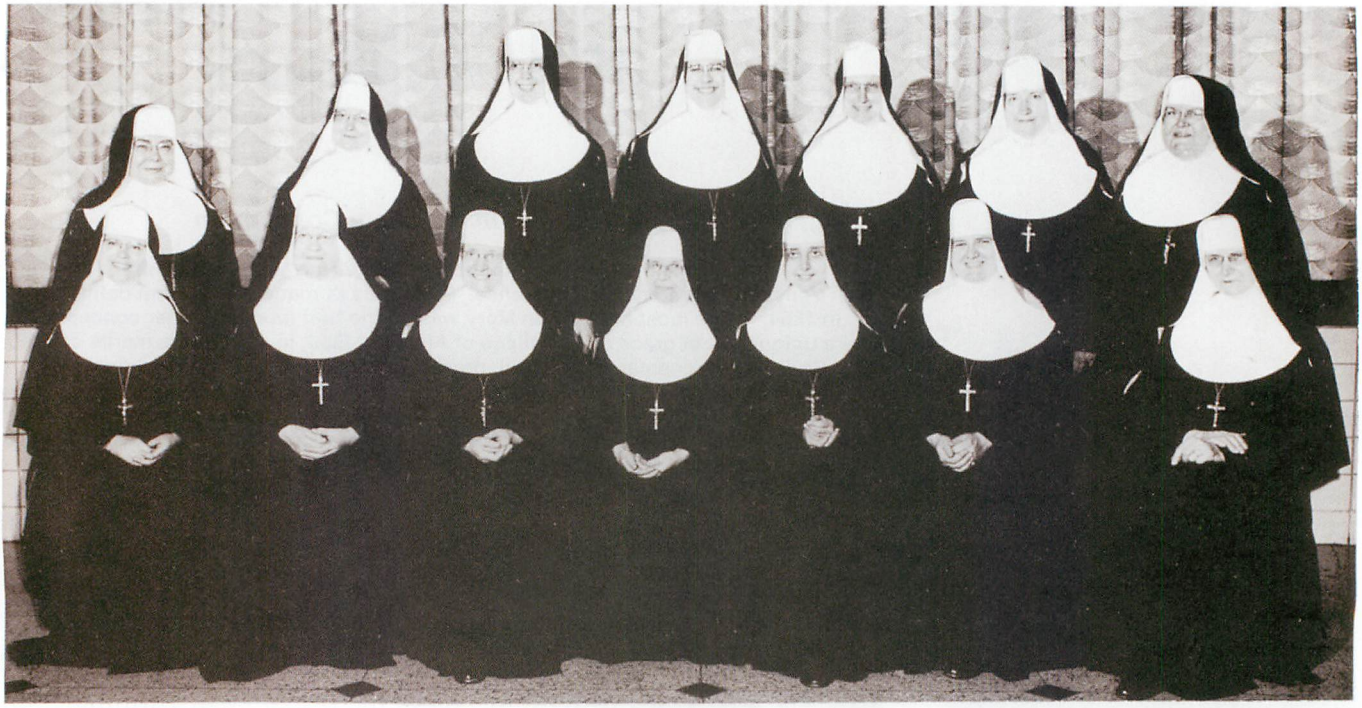
Immaculate Conception Parish was established in 1914 by Lithuanian immigrants in the Brighton Park area. The parish's first four pastors were Lithuanian, and the parish still retains a distinctly Lithuanian character today even though, demographically, the faith community is predominantly Hispanic. During the first hundred years of its existence, Immaculate Conception has been led by just six pastors: Rev. Monsignor Anthony Briška (1914-1953), Rev. Monsignor Damasus Mozeris (1953-1986), Rev. Monsignor John Kuzinskas (1986-1988), Rev. Anthony Puchenski (1988-1999), Rev. Thomas Koys (1999-2012), and Rev. Robert Coleman (2012-present). United in devotion to the Catholic Faith and particularly to the Blessed Mother, however, all of Immaculate Conception's members cherish the past, savor the present, and look forward to the future.

The Parish Established

In 1914, Brighton Park was an undeveloped area on the outskirts of the city of Chicago. Parishes, in those days, had strong ethnic identities, as immigrants from given countries tended to stay together in order to preserve their language and customs. Immaculate Conception was no exception.

It was a group of approximately sixty families that wanted to see a new parish founded in the Brighton Park area. They had come to America fleeing the rule of the Russian czar, and wanted to practice their Faith without interference. Archbishop James Quigley blessed their efforts and, on September 10, 1914, selected Father Anthony Briška from Holy Cross as their pastor. Immaculate Conception's

SISTERS ASSIGNED TO OUR PARISH



Front Row: Sister Marilyn, Sister M. Felicita, Sister M. Evangelista, Principal, Sister M. Theodore, Sister M. Karen, Sister M. Stephen, Sister M. Clotilda.

Second Row: Sister M. Eulogia, Sister M. Beata, Sister M. Agnetta, Sister M. Alfredine, Sister M. Florence, Sister M. Incarnata, Sister M. Thomas.

Sisters of St. Casimir

Sister Theodorette

Sister Lawrence

Sister Theodore

Sister CecileMarie

Sister Irene

SisterLiliosa

Immaculate Conception School

1969-70

FACULTY

PALOMAR STUDIOS INC. CHICAGO

Sister Silviana

Sister Jacqueline

Sister Perpetua

Sister Pauline

Sister Gemma

PRESENT PRINCIPAL,
SISTER VIRGINIA GAPSIS

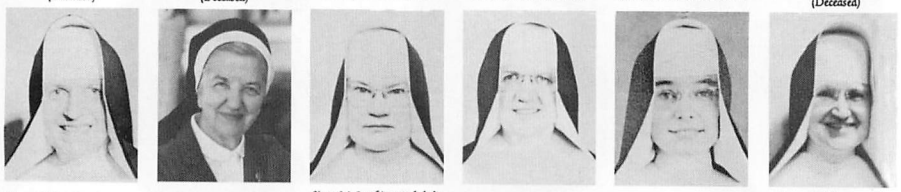
SISTER M. DeSALES 1984-1987

SISTER MARGARET PETCAVAGE
1977-1984

SISTER M. LAWRENCE 1970-1977

SISTERS
OF
SAINT CASIMIR

Sister M. Nataline Gircaitis (Deceased) | Sister M. Herman Noreika (Deceased) | Sister Julie M. Stankus | Sister M. Anello Lindzius | Sister M. Melania Rekasius | Sister M. Seraphia Asmenas (Deceased)

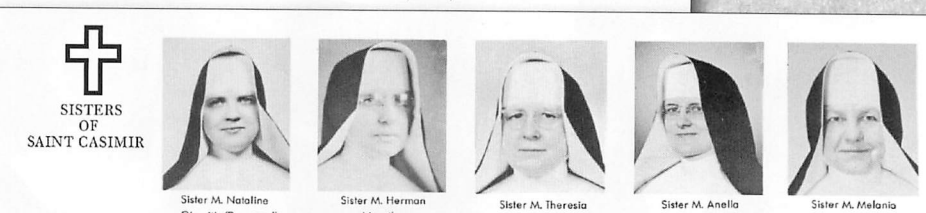


Sister M. Remigia Asmenas | Sister M. Agnesine Deringis | Sister M. Joachim Trakshelis (Deceased) | Sister M. Dilecta Knuciunas | Sister M. Aloizia Jodvalkis | Sister M. Lilia Martinkus (Deceased)

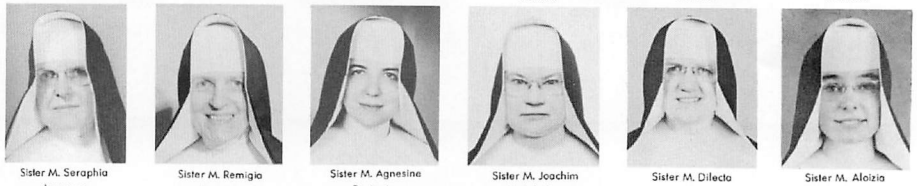
Sister M. Florence Knuciunas | Sister M. Margaret Miksis | Sister M. Teresita Miksis | Sister M. Ruth Simonavicius | Sister M. Veronette Kaziauskas | Sister Ann Barbara Wilim SSC

Sister M. Brunona Enceris (Deceased) | Sister M. Dolorosa Wertelka | Sister Helen Therese Gestautas | Sister Lucille Ann Bandyk | Sister M. DeChantal Brasus (Deceased) | Sister Inv Paukšta

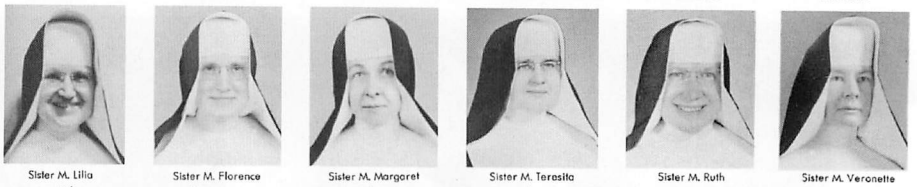
SISTERS
OF
SAINT CASIMIR



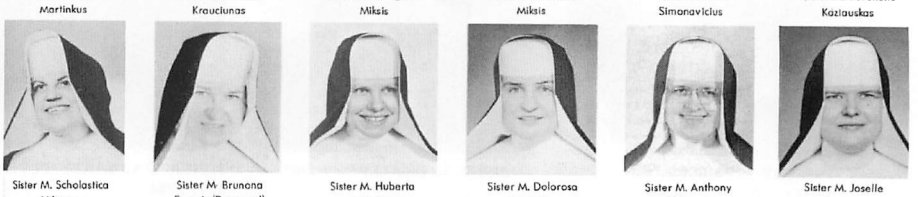
Sister M. Nataline Gircaitis (Deceased) | Sister M. Herman Noreika | Sister M. Theresia Stankus | Sister M. Anella Lindzius | Sister M. Melania Rekasius



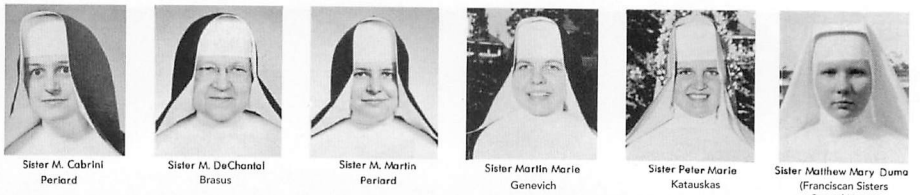
Sister M. Seraphia Asmenas | Sister M. Remigia Asmenas | Sister M. Agnesine Deringis | Sister M. Joachim Trakshelis | Sister M. Dilecta Krauciunas | Sister M. Aloizia Jodvalkis



Sister M. Lilia Martinkus | Sister M. Florence Krauciunas | Sister M. Margaret Miksis | Sister M. Teresita Miksis | Sister M. Ruth Simonavicius | Sister M. Veronette Kaziauskas



Sister M. Scholastica Vilimas | Sister M. Brunona Enceris (Deceased) | Sister M. Huberta Lideika | Sister M. Dolorosa Wertelka | Sister M. Anthony Gestautas | Sister M. Joselle Bandyk



Sister M. Cabrini Periard | Sister M. DeChantal Brasus | Sister M. Martin Periard | Sister Martin Marie Genevich | Sister Peter Marie Katauskas | Sister Matthew Mary Duma (Franciscan Sisters Sacred Heart)

The Sisters of St. Casimir

are proud to have ministered in

Immaculate Conception Parish

these past 100 years

SISTERS Adele, Adolphine, Adrian, Agatha, Agnita, Alberta, Albertanne, Alexandra, Almarita, Aloizia, Alphonsa, Alphonsine, Alvira, Amabilis, Amanda, Anastasia, Ancilla, Andre, Angela, Angeline, Ann Therese Radziunas (Olivia), Anselma, Antanina, Antonia, Anysia, Apollonia, Aquilina, Aquina, Athanasia, Augusta, Aurelia, Baptista, Barbara, Barbara Ann, Beata, Benigna, Berchmans, Berenice, Bernadette, Blandina, Bonaventura, Carmella, Casimira, Cecile Marie, Celeste, Charlene, Christella, Chrysostom, Clara, Clarita, Clement, Clementia, Clotilda, Coletta, Concepta, Consolata, Constance, Consuela, Consumata, Coralita, Cordia, Corisima, Corona, Cunegunda, Cynthia, Cyril, Daniel, David, Deborah, Delphine, Dolorine, Dolorosa, Dominic, Edmundine, Edwarda, Edwardine, Edwina, Elizabeth, Ella Kasper (Simplicia), Emerenciana, Emerita, Emma, Ernesta, Ethelreda, Eucharista, Evangeline, Evangelista, Faustina, Felicita, Florence, Floriana, Francelia, Francetta, Francine, Francis Vogel, Francita, Gabriel, Gemma, Generosa, Geraldine, Geraldine Marie Dranginis (Theresilda), Gerard, Germaine, Grace Ann Kalafut (Patrick), Grace Carol Wastak (Charles), Gracilda, Helen Agnes Krutulis (Pancratia), Helen Caroline Uzdavinis (Servita), Helen Michelle Dulkie (Eulogia), Helene, Ignata, Ildephonse, Innocenta, Irene Yenchus (Marissa), Irma, Isadore, Jacob, Jacqueline Sobey, Jean Girzaitis (Christopher), Jeanette, Jerome, Joachim, Joanella, Johanna Marie Shainauskas (Agnetta), John, Josephanne, Josetta, Josine, Joyce Klevence (Claire), Joyce Ridick, Judith, Juliana, Julie Shainauskas (Philomena, Paul Marie), Kathleen Smith, Kathleen Yakaitis, Laurine, Lawrence, Leocadia, Leona, Leonette, Leonilla, Leoretta, Lilia, Liliosa, Lillian, Linda Therese, Liudvika, Lorenza, Loretta, Loretta Ezerskis (Josann), Loyola, Lucille, Ludgarda, Madeline Marie Zuerblis (Samuella), Marcella, Marciona, Margaret McTaggart (Kevin), Margaret Petcavage (Joseph Marie), Margaret Zalot, Maria Alphonsa, Marie Alexandra, Marie Eulalia, Marielda, Marilyn Karpovich, Marilyn Kuzmickus, Marionette, Marita, Mark, Martha, Martin, Mary De Sales, Mary Louise Andrulonis (Thomasanne), Mary Rosalia, Mary Therese Macys, Marylynn Dombrosky (Alfredine), Matilda, Maura, Maureen, Maurita, Mechtilde, Michael, Mildred, Miriam, Norbert, Odelia, Olga, Paul, Paulette, Pauline Bogan, Paulissa, Perpetua, Petrita, Philiothea, Philip, Pius, Placida, Prudentia, Regina Janusa, Regina Marie Dubickas, Reginald, Renee Sabo, Rita, Rosalia, Rosalinda, Rosaline, Rosanne, Rose Marie Tomasiewicz (Monica), Ruth Ambrose, Sabina, Salome Chepul (Pauline), Salesia, Salvatore, Savio, Sebastian, Silviana, Simon, Sophie, Stanislaus, Susan Zivalich, Sylvia, Tarcisia, Thecla, Theodore, Theodorette, Theophane, Theresa Papsis (Karen), Therese Banach (Rosalima), Therese Bernadette Zebrauskas (Ronald), Therese Marie, Theresine, Thomas, Ursula, Valeria, Veronica, Victoria, Virginia Gapsis, Virginia Marie Ezerski (Christetta), Vita, Viventia, Wanda Marie Kamza (Stephen), Zita Ana

Always more, Always better, Always with love.

– Venerable Mother Maria Kaupas
Foundress of the Sisters of Saint Casimir

Sisters of St. Casimir

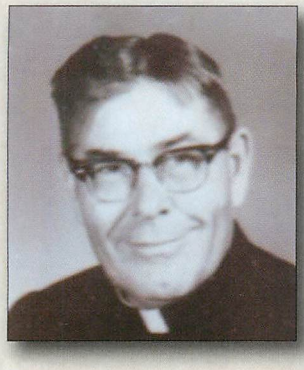
2601 West Marquette Road • Chicago, IL 60629
(773) 776-1324 www.ssc2601.com

Newly Decorated Shrines to:

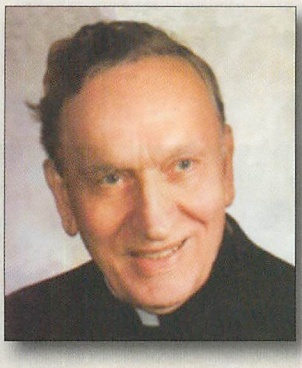
Our Lady of Šiluva

Immaculate Conception

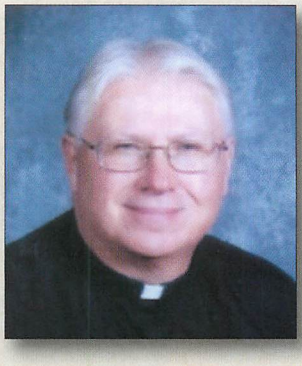
Divine Mercy



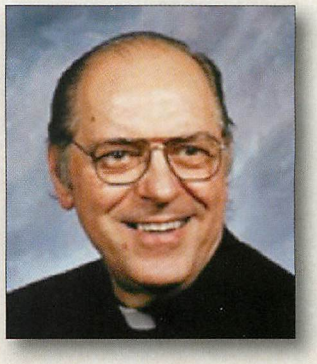
✝Rev. John Plankis
(1969-1976)



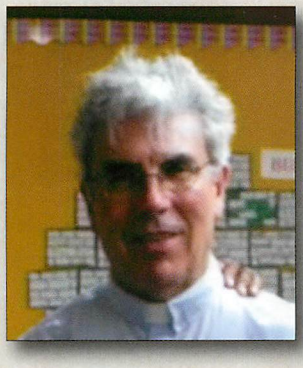
✝Rev. Fabian Kireilis
1974-2000



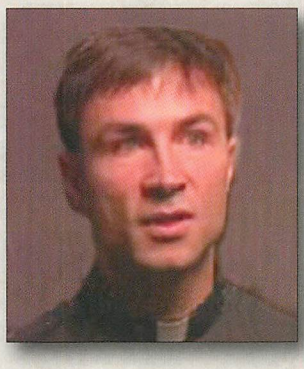
Rev. Anthony Markus
1990-1995



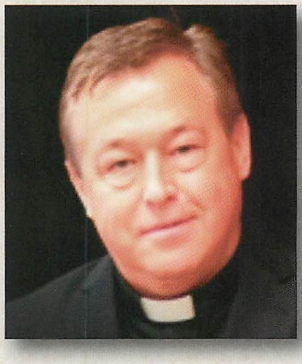
✝Rev. Edward J. Maxa
1995-2012



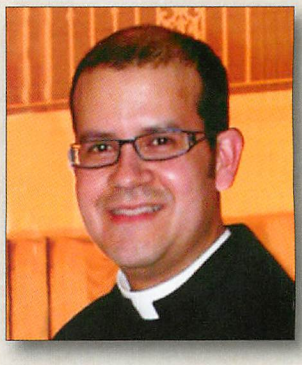
Rev. Jose Marino Novoa
1995-1999



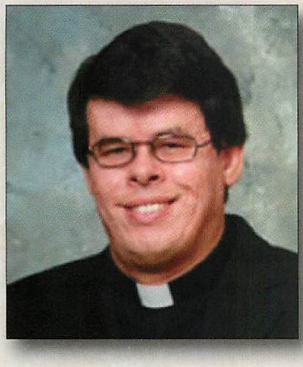
Rev. Stephen Lesniewski
2005-2010



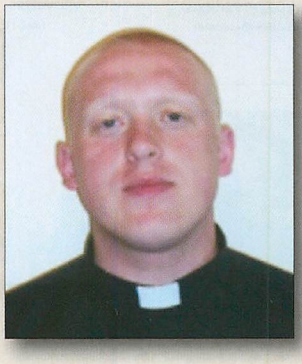
Rev. Jaunius Kelpšas
2000-2010



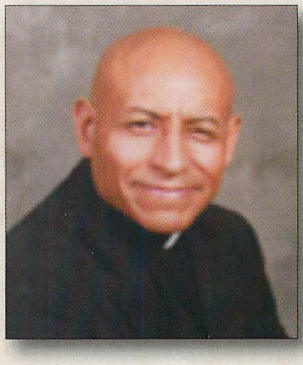
Rev. Diego Cadavid
2010-2011



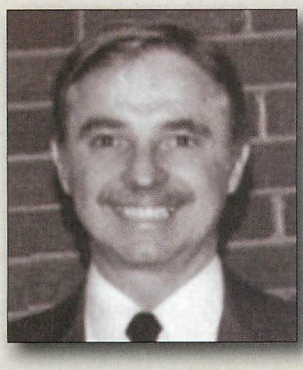
Rev. Armando Morales
2011-2013



Rev. Gediminas Keršys
2012-Present



Rev. Armando Ramirez
2013-Present



Deacin Joseph Panek
1989-1999

✝Deacon Vicente Estrada
1996-2009

Deacon Roberto Rivas
2000-2012

No Photo:

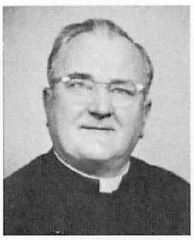
✝Rev. John Weisengoff
(1968-1978)
✝Rev. Anthony Valuckis
✝Rev. Gedgaudas

REV. JOSEPH SAULINSKAS,
1922-1927 (Deceased)

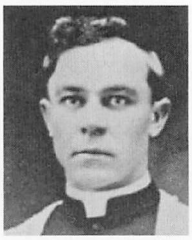
REV. FRANCIS VAITUKAITIS,
1927-1931 (Deceased)

REV. ANASTASIUS VALANČIUS
1930-1936

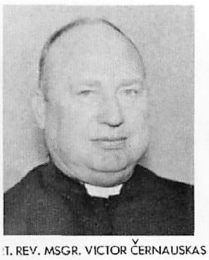
REV. STANISLAUS JONELIS
1931-1940



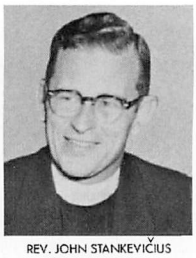
REV. PETER GASIŪNAS, Deceased
1936-1937



REV. JOHN STATKUS, Deceased
1937-1944



T. REV. MSGR. VICTOR ČERNAUSKAS
1940-1941



REV. JOHN STANKEVIČIUS
1941-1955

REV. STANLEY VALUCKIS,
1941-1949 (Deceased)

REV. VITO MIKOLAITIS
1944-1952

REV. JOHN VYŠNAUSKAS
1949-1957

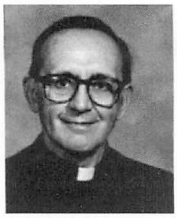
REV. PETER GEDVILA
1952-1957

REV. EDWARD ABROMAITIS
1955-1959

REV. CANON PAUL
JUKNEVIČIUS
-1969 (Deceased)

REV. FRANK KELPŠAS
1959-1966

REV. JOSEPH GILBERT
1957-1966 (Deceased)



REV. PETER PAURAZAS
1966-1972

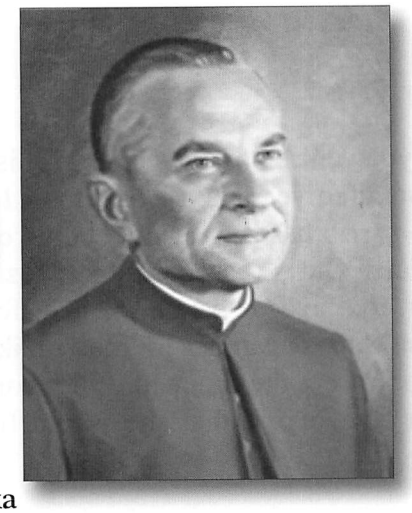
REV. LEONARD VAIŠVILAS
1966-1969 (Deceased)

REV. THOMAS KASPUTIS
1976-1982

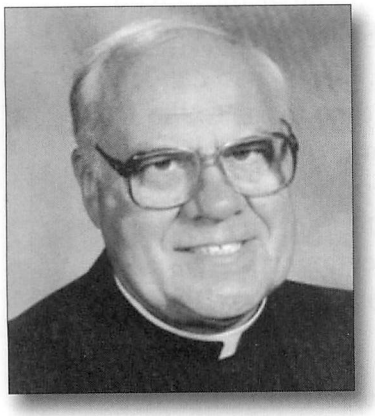
REV. ROBERT MARTINKUS
1982-1987

Pastors Past and Present

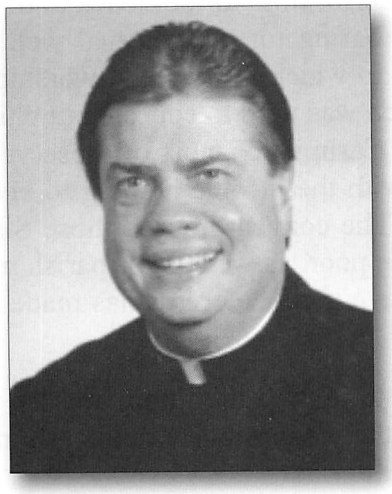
✝Rev. Msgr. Anthony Briška
First Pastor
1914-1953



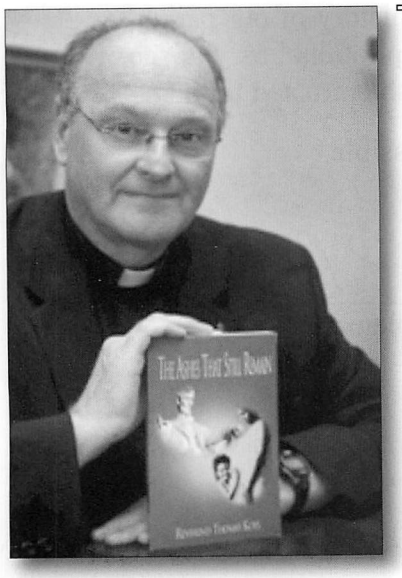
✝Rev. Msgr. Damasus Mozeris
1953-1986



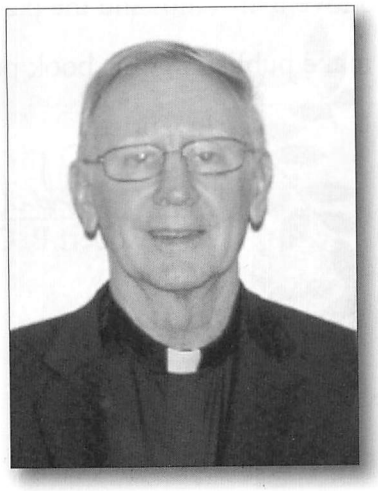
✝Rev. Msgr. John Kuzinskas
1986-1988



✝Rev. Anthony Puchenski
1988-1999



Rev. Thomas R. Koys
1999-2012



Rev. Robert P. Coleman
2012-Present

In the Service of the Lord at Immacualte Conception Parish

CLERGY ASSISTANTS
The following priests and deacons have served at Immaculate Conception some have gone to their final reward; others have been assigned to other parishes. Each and every one we have learned to love and appreciate for their time and work with us.

✝Rev. Joseph Saulinskas (1922-1927)
✝Rev. Francis Vaitukaitis (1927-1931)
✝Rev. Anastasius Valančius (1930-1936)
✝Rev. Stanislaus Jonelis (1931- 1940)
✝Rev. Peter Gasiūnas (1936-1937)
✝Rev. John Statkus (1937-1944)
✝Rev. Msgr. Victor Černiauskas (1940-1941)
✝Rev. John Stankevičius (1941-1955)
✝Rev. Stanley Valukas (1941-1949)
✝Rev. Vito Mikolaitis (1944-1952)
✝Rev. John Vyšniauskas (1949-1957)
✝Rev. Peter Gedvila (1952-1957)
✝Rev. Edward Abromaitis (1955-1959)
✝ Rev. Joseph Gilbert (1957-1966)
✝Rev. Canon Paul Juknevičius (1957-1977)
✝Rev. Frank Kelpšas (1959-1966)
✝Rev. Leonard Vaišvilas (1966-1969)
Rev. Peter Paurazas (1966 - 1972
✝Rev. John Weisengoff (1968 -1978)
✝Rev. John Plankis (1969-1976)
Rev. Thomas Kasputis (1976 -1982)
Rev. Robert Martinkus (1982 -1987)
✝Rev. Anthony Valuckis (no photo)
✝Rev. Fabian Kireilis (1974-2000)
Rev. Anthony Markus (1990-1995)
Rev. Jose Marino (1995-1999)
✝Rev. Gedgaudas (no photo)
✝Rev. Edward J. Maxa (1995-2012)
Rev. Jaunius Kelpšas (2000-2010)
Rev. Stephen Lesniewski (2005-2010)
Rev. Diego Cadavid (2010-2011)
Rev. Armando Morales (2011-2013)
Rev. Gediminas Keršys (2012-Present)
Rev. Armando Ramirez-Ruiz (2013-Present)
Deacon Joseph Panek (1989 -1993)
✝Deacon Vicente Estrada (1996-2009)
Deacon Roberto Rivas (2000-2012)

Dear Friends of Immaculate Conception Parish,

The slogan for this centennial year, as you can see on the cover of this memorial book, is "A Century in Mary's Hands." One hundred years is a long time. It is longer than the life expectancy of most people and the parish has seen many people come and go during that time. Throughout these 100 years, Our Blessed Mother has been guiding and interceding for us. What an honor to have a parish named for her Immaculate Conception as a constant reminder that Mary began her journey unlike any other human being! She was free from sinful condition from the moment of her conception. This was part of God's plan for the redemption of mankind that she would be chosen to be the Mother of God.

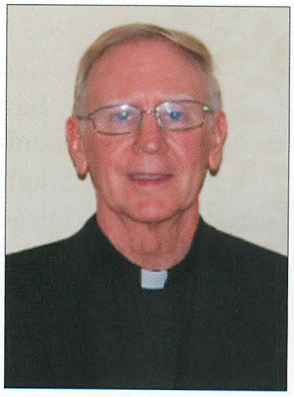
A centennial celebration is a time to pause and to give thanks to God for His many blessings upon this parish since it began September 10th, 1914.

A centennial celebration is also a wonderful time to look back and remember those who have gone before us sacrificing and laboring for the spiritual well being of the parish. They have given us a beautiful church in which to pray and worship. They also handed on to us the ample school building which was used to educate our children in the Catholic faith for 85 years by the Sisters of St. Casimir for most of those years. It is now being used as a government charter school with the income helping to keep the parish and its ministries solvent for years to come. The convent housed those Sisters for many years and is now used as a food pantry for the poor, as well as for parish meetings and retreats. The love and sacrifice of those who have gone before us has made our parish what it is today.

A centennial celebration is also a time to look to the future and the next 100 years. We know that we who are here now have the responsibility to keep Immaculate Conception alive and well for those who will come after us.

I hope that you will find this book educational in reading about the history of our parish, enjoyable in reminiscing as you look at the pictures chosen, and inspirational as you see what can be accomplished by those who love their Faith and the parish entrusted to them.

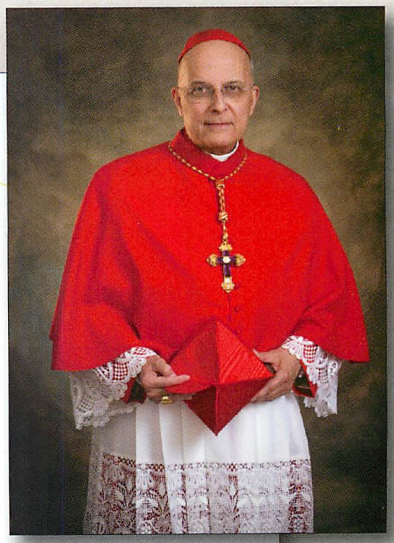
Thank you to all who purchased ads to make publishing this book possible.



In Christ,

Rev. Robert P. Coleman

Rev. Robert P. Coleman,
Pastor



Archdiocese of Chicago

Francis Cardinal George, OMI
Archbishop of Chicago

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 2014

Dear Friends in Christ:

I am happy to send you my greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of your parish, Immaculate Conception on 44th Street in Chicago. It was a pleasure for me to be with you as celebrant of your Centennial Mass on September 21. Together with you, I praise and thank God, who stirs up faith and calls people to holiness in every generation, for the many ways in which the people of Immaculate Conception Parish, over the past century, have lived as disciples of the Lord and continue to introduce others to Him.

Pope Francis has spoken of the parish as "the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters." On this historic occasion, we remember the courage, faith and vision of the Lithuanian Catholic founders of Immaculate Conception, who came to Archbishop James Quigley and requested his permission to form a parish, even though the Brighton Park neighborhood was still largely prairies and swampland. Guided by the Holy Spirit, nourished by the zeal and labor of its priests, religious and lay leaders, and supported by the sacrifices of its parishioners, Immaculate Conception Parish has been a place where people knew they could come to learn who Christ is, worship Him with reverence and joy, meet Him in the Sacraments and express their love for Him through works of charity and compassion. Immaculate Conception Parish today is a community in which the Church lives in many homes, in households that speak different languages and follow different customs, but are united by their love for the Lord and His Church. As your Archbishop, I am proud of your parish and all who have contributed to its life over the past ten decades, and whose vision sustains its vitality today.

I thank you for all that you do to touch the lives of others with Christ's love, and to enable another generation to make His compassion visible to a world that needs, more than ever, to be reminded of His presence. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may the prayers that are lifted up, the memories that are recalled and the hopes that are shared during your centennial nurture your love for the Lord and for all those whom He loves. May your enduring faith inspire many to serve the Church in ordained priesthood and in consecrated life. I will continue to remember you in prayer, even as I count on yours. God bless you and those you love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

Archbishop Quigley Center * 835 North Rush Street * Chicago, IL 60611-2030 * 312-534-8230 * Fax: 312-534-6379

WHEREAS, In addition to his work at Immaculate Conception Parish, the Reverend Robert Coleman has served as Pastor of St. Philomena, ministered at St. Mary of Lake Parish and Good Shepherd Parish and spent fourteen years as a missionary in Mexico, where he honed his language skills in Spanish; and

WHEREAS, The dedication of the Reverend Robert Coleman and the contributions to the community of Immaculate Conception Parish serve as an example to all; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this second day of April, 2014, do hereby recognize the *100th Anniversary* of Immaculate Conception Parish and do hereby express our appreciation to the Reverend Robert Coleman; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Reverend Robert Coleman.

Rahm Emanuel

Mayor

Susana A. Mendoza

City Clerk

A resolution

adopted by The City Council of the City of Chicago, Illinois

Presented by *Alderman Edward M. Burke* on **April 2, 2014**

Whereas, The Reverend Robert Coleman, the Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church on the Southwest Side of Chicago, will preside over the parish's Centennial celebrations during 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this anniversary by Alderman Edward M. Burke; and

WHEREAS, For generations, families have found Immaculate Conception parish to be a place of comfort, inspiration and hope; and

WHEREAS, Inside this church, countless baptisms, weddings and funerals have taken place; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1914 when the Brighton Park neighborhood was still a prairie, Immaculate Conception Church initially served Lithuanian and eastern European families; and

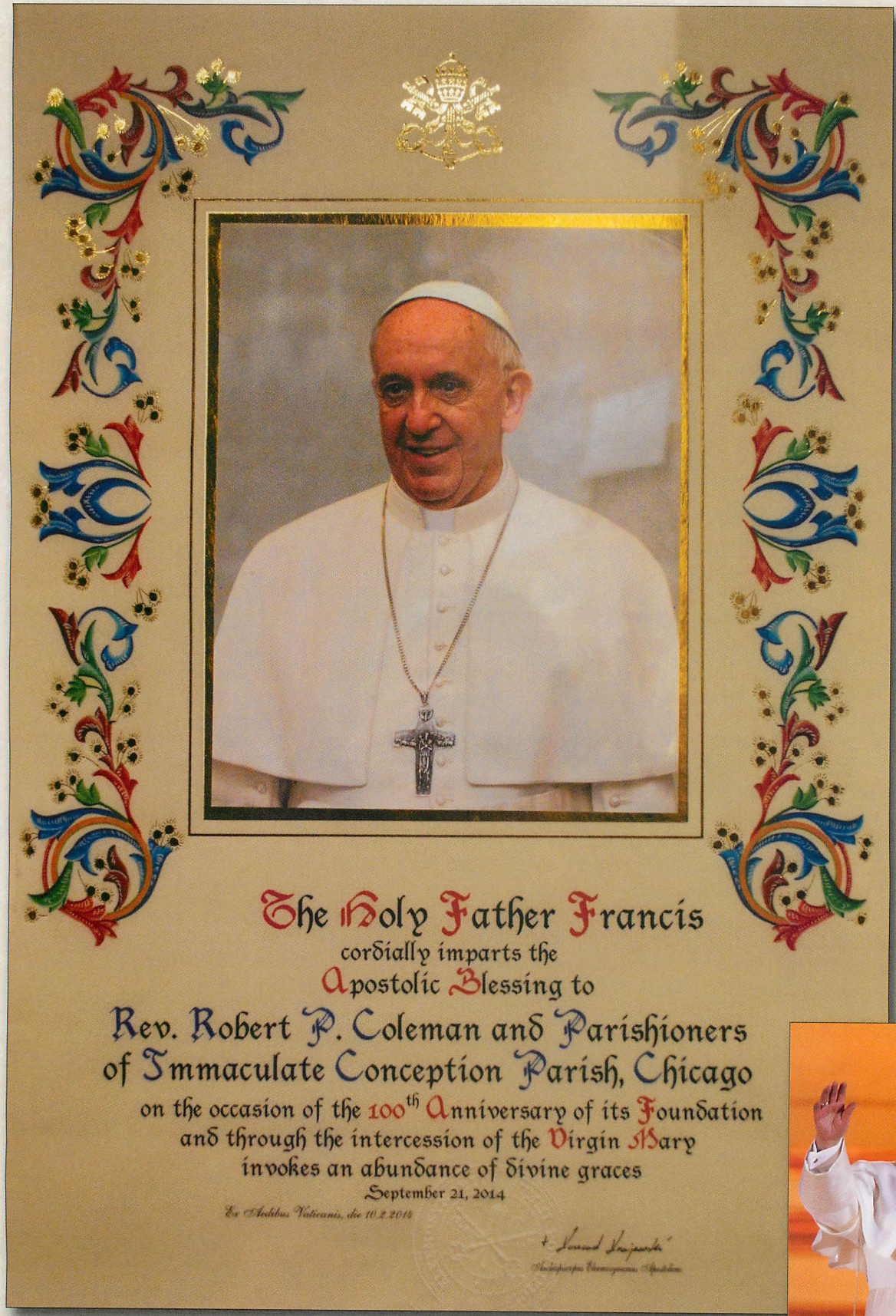
WHEREAS, Over its long and rich history, the faithful of this highly active parish became largely comprised of Mexican immigrants and today has 2,500 registered families; and

WHEREAS, This Jubilee year provides the opportunity to not only reflect on the parish's rich history, but also acknowledge the contributions of its many priests, including its current Pastor, the Reverend Robert Coleman; and

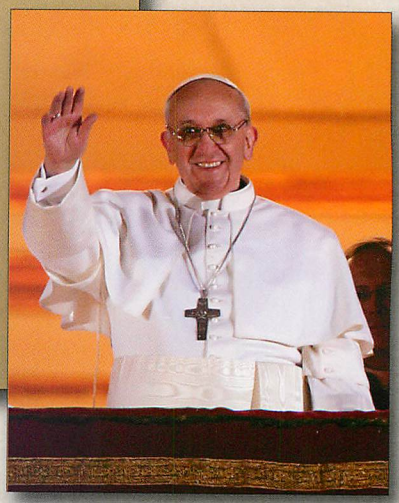
WHEREAS, A native of the Southwest Side, the Reverend Robert Coleman was raised in an Irish family and served his country as a member of the United States Army; and

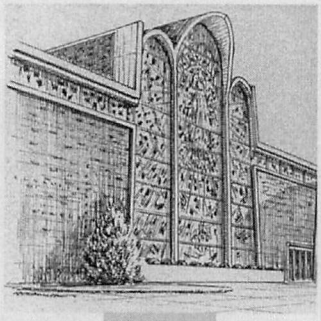
WHEREAS, While in the military, the Reverend Robert Coleman decided to pursue a religious vocation and was ordained in 1978 at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein; and

® 638



The Holy Father Francis
cordially imparts the
Apostolic Blessing to
Rev. Robert P. Coleman and Parishioners
of Immaculate Conception Parish, Chicago
on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of its Foundation
and through the intercession of the Virgin Mary
invokes an abundance of divine graces
September 21, 2014





100th ANNIVERSARY

1914

2014

A CENTURY IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

IN MARY'S HAND

MARIJOS RANKOSE

EN MANOS DE MARIA

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Immaculate Conception Parish

2745 W. 44th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60632

This book is dedicated to all priests, sisters of St. Casimir, religious, and parishioners who have served Immaculate Conception Parish in the past 100 years.

first Mass was actually celebrated, three days after his appointment, in the basement chapel of nearby St. Joseph and St. Anne Parish. Father lived in an apartment on California Avenue while a committee investigated the possibility of building the new church at 44th and Fairfield.

Twenty lots were eventually purchased for this purpose, and the new parish attracted new members as well. The sixty founding families were joined by another two hundred, during that first year alone. While construction of the original church was underway, Father Briška continued borrowing the basement of St. Joseph and St. Anne Parish to celebrate the sacraments for his growing flock. It was on October 17, 1915, that Immaculate Conception's first church building was opened and blessed.

Immaculate Conception Parish on 44th Street was off to a great start. Father Briška, for one thing, finally had living quarters of his own, and the children of the parish had a two-room school to attend. There were about a hundred youngsters needing to be educated at the time. The two lay teachers who undertook this daunting task were soon assisted by four Sisters of Nazareth. Still, by 1922—with over 500 students enrolled—the Sisters of St. Casimir stepped in.

Founded in Pennsylvania in 1907 by Venerable Servant of God Maria Kaupas, the Sisters of St. Casimir's specific mission was to support the faith of Lithuanian immigrants in the United States. Some of their members taught at Immaculate Conception until the closure of the school in 1999. From 1951 through 1988, there was even formal instruction in Lithuanian language and heritage for those of Lithuanian extraction. "It was a good education, spiritually as well as scholastically," insists present-day Immaculate Conception member Victor Kelmelis, who was taught by the Sisters of St. Casimir after arriving at the parish with his parents and sister in 1964.

St. Casimir himself (1461-1484) was a member of the Jagiellon Dynasty whose piety sometimes came into conflict with the demands of a royal lifestyle. He dressed plainly, ate little, and prayed often, but still fulfilled the duty of leading his father's armed forces against other European powers and against the invading Ottomon Turks. After a short life of intense piety, Casimir died early of tuberculosis. Canonized in 1602, his feast day is observed on March 4. He is honored as the patron saint of both Lithuania and Poland.

On September 2, 1953, Anthony Briška—by then a Monsignor—passed away. He had served his people and his Lord well, having successfully guided Immaculate Conception Parish through the first phase of its existence. By the time he was through, the parish debt had been paid off, a convent and rectory had been built, and approximately 700 students were attending the school.

Venerable Mother Maria Kaupas
The Foundress of
the Sisters of St. Casimir

The Call for Sainthood

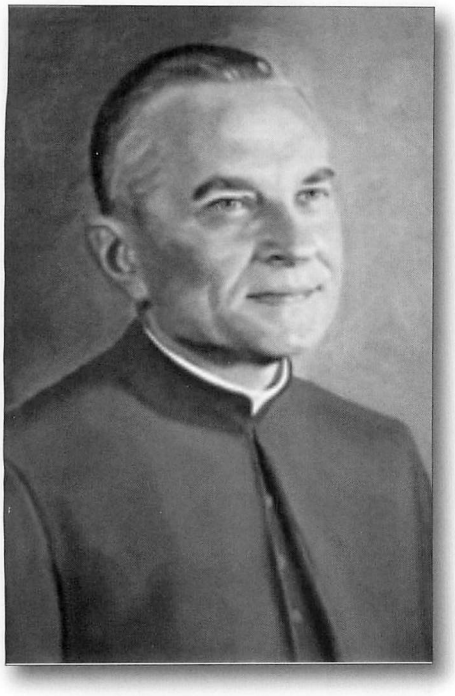
It was commonly accepted among the Sisters of St. Casimir, priests and laity who knew Mother Maria Kaupas that she was a very holy person. Within a matter of hours after her death on April 17, 1940 the newspapers carried articles titled, "Sainthood Sought for Mother Maria."

Within three years of her death a holy card was printed praying for her beatification. Soon favors received through the intercession of Mother Maria Kaupas were recorded. Tireless efforts ensued on behalf of her Sisters to preserve the memory or her heroic virtuous life as it was noted in her dealings with the Sisters and the laity, and as found in her writings, her works and her accomplishments.

In October 2009, the Congregation for Causes of Saints in Rome completed the reading of the "Positio," the book on the heroic, virtuous life of Mother Maria Kaupas. The nine theologians given the assignment gave a unanimous positive vote.

On July 1, 2010, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints announced that Mother Maria be named "Venerable."

Second Pastor
1953 - 1986



Rev. Msgr. Damasus Mozeris

Born: December 11, 1915
Attended: St. Anthony's grade school; Quigley Preparatory Seminary; St. Mary of the Lake; Catholic University
Ordained by George Cardinal Mundelein at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, April 15, 1939
Named Papal Chamberlain with the title "the very Reverend Monsignor": Nov. 3, 1953
Appointed Pastor of Immaculate Conception: Nov. 5, 1953
Appointed a member of the board of Archdiocesan Consultors: Jan. 28, 1960
Retired and became Pastor Emeritus at Immaculate Conception: 1986
Died: August 1, 2002

A New Pastor, and a New Church Building

On November 5, 1953, Monsignor Damasus Aloysius Mozeris became Immaculate Conception's second pastor. Born and raised in Cicero, Illinois, Monsignor Mozeris was a formidable theologian whose educational background included Quigley Preparatory Seminary, St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, and the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. His dissertation *Doctrina sancti Leonis Magni de Christo Restitutore et Sacerdote* ("The Teachings of Saint Leo the Great on Christ, Redeemer and Priest") is available, in Latin, online. Monsignor Mozeris is best remembered for expanding Father Briška's church structure into the building we know today, but he also capably guided the parish through some very difficult decades in the life of the Church and the world.

The first task Monsignor Mozeris undertook was a work of renovation. The existing convent and rectory were improved and a parking lot added, while the school got seven new classrooms and a playground. This project was completed and blessed on October 16, 1954, by Samuel Cardinal Strich of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

It was almost a decade later when Monsignor Mozeris turned his attention to the task of constructing a new and enlarged church. Immaculate Conception's 50th Anniversary Book describes the inspiration behind the specific structural improvements that were undertaken. "Our church," it says, "is of contemporary design, blending the traditional with the modern. The triple vaulted ceiling is a modern adaptation of the Romanesque arch. The entire structure is of reinforced concrete, finished with cut stone, brick, and faceted art glass. The theme of the architecture, from the circular baptistery in front to the graceful sweep of the nave towards the main altar, is to emphasize the liturgy."

Construction of the beautiful church which Monsignor Mozeris envisioned began on December 8, 1963—the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The cornerstone itself featured a Lithuanian cross. Just over a year later, on Christmas Day of 1964, the 1,600 families who belonged to the parish by then celebrated Mass in their new church for the first time. The solemn dedication of this building—postponed due to the death of Albert Cardinal Meyer—was celebrated by Archbishop John Cody on October 2, 1966.

Monsignor Mozeris wasn't only concerned, however, with the physical structures of Immaculate Conception Parish. He dedicated himself to building up the life of the parish spiritually as well. Right off the bat, he established groups including the Teen Club, the Men's Club, and the Christian Family Movement.

He was also noted for extending and cherishing the ethnic heritage of the parish's founding families. "Of Lithuanian extraction himself, pastor of a Lithuanian parish," the parish's 35th Anniversary booklet explains, Monsignor Mozeris "was most ready to provide special services and celebrations for his Lithuanian parishioners, without in any way neglecting his other parishioners." During the 1950s, a great number of Lithuanian refugees impacted by the Second World War settled in Brighton Park, and Monsignor Mozeris welcomed them kindly. In the early 1950s, Mrs. Sofija Jonynienė, herself a World War II refugee, added to the existing school curriculum courses for children of Lithuanian heritage. As Lithuanian membership in the parish increased, however, more Lithuanian ministers were needed. Priests serving in this capacity included Father Paul Juknevičius, Father Fabian Kireilis, and Father John Plankis.

The 1960s and 1970s were especially tumultuous decades in the Church and in the world. Vatican II was held in Rome while, back at home, there was great social upheaval. A development that particularly concerned him was the, in effect, legalization of abortion throughout all fifty states by the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision of the Supreme Court. "These are days," Monsignor noted in his bulletin article of June 9, 1974, "when even in theology some strange opinions are put forth." He wrote in this and other articles about the need to respect the law of God rather than the law of man, if the law of man should presume to contradict Him.

Monsignor Mozeris stated convictions that are still applicable to our situation today. "As a Catholic in the medical field," says present-day Immaculate Conception member Yamira Ulloa, "I am very concerned that my faith might not be respected. If someone asked me to do an abortion, for example, I wouldn't do it. I don't believe in it, or in euthanasia, either. I plan to practice medicine in a way that protects life, not the opposite." Yamira is finishing up her pre-med courses at De Paul, while participating in parish life—especially, the Bible study group—at Immaculate Conception.

One well-remembered highlight of Monsignor Mozeris' time at Immaculate Conception was the visit of Pope John Paul II to the Brighton Park area in 1979. Associate pastor Father Tom Kasputis, and many of the children from Immaculate Conception School, were among those hoping to catch a glimpse of the pontiff as he traveled down a Brighton Park street which has since been renamed in his honor. The Holy Father celebrated Mass on that occasion in the parking lot of nearby Five Holy Martyrs Parish.

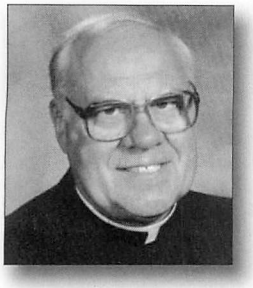
Arguably the dominant figure in the history of Immaculate Conception to date, Monsignor Damasus Mozeris retired in 1986, but continued to serve as Pastor Emeritus until his death in August

Saint Pope John Paul II

Pope John Paul II Street

It was with great joy that Five Holy Martyrs parishioners of Brighton Park learned that their parish had been selected as the site of an open-air Mass to be celebrated by Pope John Paul II on October 5, 1979 during his three-day visit to Chicago. In preparation of the Pope's visit to Brighton Park, homeowners decorated their bungalows and two-flats with papal banners and signs of welcome. More than 17,500 people, from various parishes, organizations, and institutions of the Chicago Archdiocese participated in the special Mass that was held in the parking lot of Five Holy Martyrs Parish. Speaking in his native tongue, the Pope told the assembled crowd that their offertory gifts represented "all the contributions that the sons and daughters of our first homeland, Poland, have made to the history and life of their second homeland across the ocean." On January 16, 1980, the street in front of Five Holy Martyrs Church was named Pope John Paul II Drive. As a result of the action of the Chicago City Council, that portion of 43rd Street which extends from Kedzie to Western Avenues now bears the name of the first Polish Pope. (Lithuanians take pride in the fact that the Pope's mother was of Lithuanian descent.)

Third Pastor
1986 - 1988



Rev. Msgr. John Kuzinskas

Born: June 3, 1926
Ordained in 1952
by Cardinal Stritch
Died: July 4, 2013

Msgr. Kuzinskas was born in Waukegan June 3, 1926 to Lithuanian parents. He graduated from St. Bartholomew Catholic school in Waukegan, Quigley Preparatory Seminary and the University of Saint Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary. He was ordained in 1952 by Cardinal Stritch.

His first year as a priest was served as assistant pastor at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish on Chicago's south side. From 1953 to 1966, Msgr. Kuzinskas was the assistant pastor of St. George, a Lithuanian parish that was closed in 1990. From 1966 to 1973, he was assistant pastor of Nativity BVM Parish on Washtenaw in Chicago.

In 1973, he was named administrator of St. Batholomew in Waukegan and the following year became the pastor, a position he held until 1979. St. Bartholomew in Waukegan closed in 1991. For seven years beginning in 1979, Msgr. Kuzinskas was the pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish on Chicago's northwest side. Fr. Dan McCarthy, pastor emeritus of St. Tarcissus, was associate pastor at Our Lady of Victory during part of this time and succeeded Msgr. Kusinskas as pastor in 1981. "He was a great mentor to me and to a lot of priests and seminarians," McCarthy said. "He was a great people person and would move easily among people at a function, and if he didn't know their name, he would ask and never forget it," McCarthy added.

He served from 1986 to 1988 as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish on 44th Street in Chicago before returning to Nativity BVM Parish as pastor. He retired in 1997 and was named pastor emeritus. That same year, he became chaplain at Holy Family Villa in Palos Park.

Msgr. Kuzinskas held a number of positions on Archdiocese boards including the Pastors Review Board, Catholic Cemeteries Board and a decade on the Board of Consultors from 1989 to 1999. He also served on the Priests' Senate and was a deputy Vicar in Vicariate IV and the Assistant Vicer for senior priests.

As a senior priest, Msgr. Kuzinskas continued to serve at various parishes helping out with Mass. "He was a generous and kind-hearted person who empowered a lot of priests and lay people and at the same time he was humble," said his friend, Fr. McCarthy.

In 2010 he was one of 20 Chicago priests on whom Pope Benedict XVI bestowed the clerical title of monsignor. The rarely bestowed honorific meant a lot to Monsignor Kuzinskas, who told the Tribune that it was "a reflection on the many people to whom and with whom you've ministered."

of 2002. His funeral Mass was celebrated by Francis Cardinal George. Monsignor Mozeris requested that, instead of flowers in his honor, donations be given to the Sisters of St. Casimir or to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

A Time of Transition

In the mid-1980s, when Monsignor Mozeris retired, a demographic shift was underway in America generally, and in the Brighton Park area particularly. The pockets of immigrant populations dating from the early 1900s were dissolving, while new waves of immigrants—mainly from Mexico—were arriving. Immaculate Conception slowly became a predominantly Hispanic parish, while continuing to respect and draw from its Lithuanian beginnings. There were two priests who guided Immaculate Conception through its time of major transition: Father John Kuzinskas and Father Anthony Puchenski.

Waukegan native Father John Kuzinskas was ordained in 1952. In 1966, he officiated at the wedding of President Lyndon B. Johnson's daughter Luci to Patrick Nugent in Washington, D.C. Nugent, like Father Kuzinskas, hailed from Waukegan.

Father Kuzinskas took over for Monsignor Mozeris at Immaculate Conception in 1986. It was during his relatively short tenure as pastor that Lithuania commemorated 600 years of Christianity (1387-1987). At Immaculate Conception, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago Alfred L. Abramowicz celebrated an outdoor Mass, which Father Kuzinskas concelebrated. A procession consisting of school children, teachers, and all those attending Mass walked around the block carrying religious banners and singing hymns. To mark the occasion, a large wooden cross in the traditional wayside style—which Father Kuzinskas blessed—had been erected in front of the rectory. Known for his kind pastoral style, Father Kuzinskas practiced a "ministry of presence" at the parish. He is also remembered for encouraging parishioner Joseph Panek to become a deacon.

Even after leaving Immaculate Conception in 1988, Father Kuzinskas strove to serve the Lithuanian community everywhere. Along with Joseph Cardinal Bernadin, he was part of a Chicago delegation that visited the Lithuanian bishops in 1990. "On the day that Lithuania declared its independence, he felt all his prayers had been answered," said Joseph Polikaitis, chairman of the Lithuanian-American Community of the United States. After serving in a number of parishes throughout the archdiocese, including his

childhood parish of St. Bartholomew's, Monsignor Kuzinskas went on to his eternal reward in 2013.

Father Anthony Puchenski's tenure at Immaculate Conception lasted from 1988 until 1999. Also a Chicago-area native of Lithuanian extraction, Father Puchenski helped the parish face the change-over from predominantly Lithuanian to predominantly Hispanic. Under his leadership, a Hispanic Ministry was officially established at Immaculate Conception. The first Mass in Spanish was offered by Father Jose Marino in 1995.

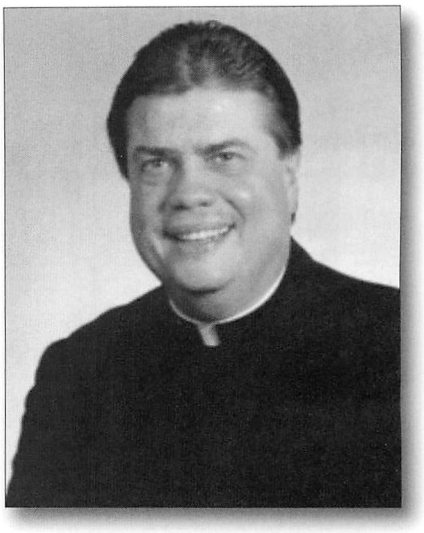
Pablo Padilla was one of the many people of Mexican heritage who have found a spiritual home at Immaculate Conception. He and his wife Martha and their four children came to the Brighton Park area in the mid-1980s and have been active parishioners ever since then. "For these buildings and this community, I say *thank you*," he smiles.

Mexico, like Lithuania, is a devoutly Catholic country that has faced major persecution in modern times. It was in 1531 that Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego under the title of "Our Lady of Guadalupe," instructing him to pluck roses in December and take them to the bishop as an assurance from Heaven that her request to build a church on Tepeyac Hill was genuine. When Juan Diego let the roses spill forth, however, the more magnificent sign—Mary's own image, miraculously painted on his humble tilma—was revealed. Because of this apparition, countless Mexicans were converted to Christianity, and the horrific practice of pagan human sacrifice was all but halted. By the beginning of the twentieth century, however, Mexican politics had been infiltrated by factions deeply inimical to the practice of the Faith. Those who took up arms against the repressive government went by the name of *Cristeros*. Many others, like the heroic priest Blessed Miguel Pro, were executed even though they had not resorted to violence at all.

At Immaculate Conception Parish, then, two great cultures worship together, strengthening and complementing one another. Although with many who are neither Lithuanian nor Hispanic, the members of the parish all belong to the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. "The parishioners all share the same goal," Victor points out, "of spreading the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ!"

In addition to welcoming the growing Hispanic population of his parish, Father Puchenski also had to handle some very practical matters. By the early 1990s, for instance, the church building was in major need of repairs. Besides having a new roof put on, Father Puchenski—together with associate pastor Father Anthony Markus—had the church repainted, the light fixtures restored, and the red carpeting replaced with light purple carpeting. The red altar railings

Fourth Pastor
1988 - 1999



Rev. Anthony Puchenski

Born: January 16, 1945
Ordained 1971
by John Cardinal Cody
Died: August 11, 2010

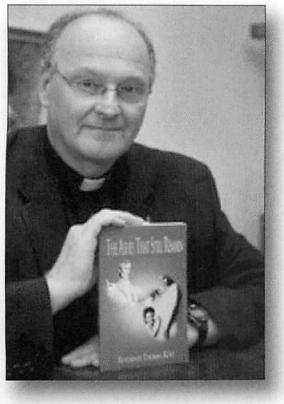
Fr. Puchenski was born and raised in the Midway East area and identified strongly with his Lithuanian heritage and community. He graduated from St. Nicholas of Tolentine School, Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary and the University of St. Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary. He was ordained by John Cardinal Cody in 1971 and began a six-year assignment at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in his old neighborhood.

For the next 10 years, Fr. Puchenski remained in the southwest suburbs, serving from 1979 to 1984 at St. Damian in Oak Forest, and from 1984 to 1988 at St. Patricia in Hickory Hills. For 11 years, beginning in 1988, Fr. Puchenski was the pastor of Immaculate Conception on 44th Street on Chicago's southwest side.

He served as associate pastor and then administrator of St. Julie Billairt in Tinley Park for five years from 2000-2005. For the next four years, Fr. Puchenski served as associate pastor at four parishes in Lemont: St. Alphonsus, St. Patrick, SS. Cyril & Methodius and St. James at Sag Bridge, before being named associate pastor of St. Zachary.

Fr. Joseph Mulcrone, a classmate of Fr. Puchenski, said he always wanted to be a parish priest and was fulfilled and happy in that role. "He was committed to the liturgy, " Fr. Mulcrone added, "and he focused on the liturgy, insisting on good music and proclaiming the Word well."

Fifth Pastor
1999 - 2012



Rev. Thomas R. Koys
Born March 20, 1957
Ordained May 18, 1985
by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin

Bulletin article of July 1, 2001, by Father Tom Koys

This week, our country will celebrate July 4th. July 3 represents another important anniversary in the life of this young country. It is the day, in 1893, when Abraham Lincoln's Union army finally won a major battle in our terrible Civil War. As a Catholic priest, I am very opposed to killing for just about any reason and the thought of war should never be brought up without realizing the incredible fallen state our human race is in, and the only true means of redemption through the life and death of Jesus Christ. Be that as it may, we should all take a moment to recognize what it was that the northern soldiers were fighting for. It hit me one day when I was planning a trip to Florida, if the North had not won the Battle of Gettysburg, the Confederacy probably would have won the war. I would need a passport to go to Disneyland. If the North would have lost, it is very likely that what we now recognize as one great and united country would be, not only two countries, but by this time at the beginning of the third Millennium, perhaps three or four or even six separate countries. Each country with strict border controls; each country with its own president and Supreme Court. This part of the world would have looked more like Europe with its many smaller countries, each with its own personality or culture. Each with its own gifts, for sure, but a continent with more potential for wars between nations. Another question is worth pondering. If the North would not have won the Battle of Gettysburg, would a divided American continent have been able to join together with sufficient strength to defeat Hitler and the Empire of Japan in World War II? I doubt it. This week does give us much to ponder.

at the entrance to the main altar were also removed, and the baptismal font was moved from the back of the church to the front.

In 1995, a Mass celebrated by Joseph Cardinal Bernadin of Chicago honored Immaculate Conception's 85th anniversary. But only four years later, an important era in the life of the parish came to an end. Due to economic pressures, the school closed in 1999. The Sisters of St. Casimir, although no longer teaching at the school, were involved in pastoral ministry at the parish until 2005. Father Puchenski who, after nearly twelve years as the dedicated pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, served elsewhere in the Archdiocese until his death in 2010.

The Turn of the Millennium

Like Pablo Padillo, Alicia Ortega was happy to have found "such a good church" in Immaculate Conception Parish. Alicia does secretarial work for the parish, and helps out with the youth group and the choir. But she started out assisting the parish's fifth pastor—Father Thomas Koys.

Father Koys is from Riverside, Illinois. According to his mother, his very first word was "Jesus." As a matter of fact, he has been saying quite a bit about that subject ever since.

An accomplished and charismatic teacher, Father Koys holds a degree in philosophy from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. While on sabbatical in 1998—just before being appointed as pastor of Immaculate Conception—he penned *The Ashes That Still Remain* (Oak Lawn: CMJ, 2002), an examination of the correlation between the dehumanizing injustice of slavery which sparked the Civil War, and the dehumanizing injustice of abortion that is dividing American society today. Father Koys hosted a weekly radio talk show on WYLL for a year and can now be heard on "Winds of Change" Catholic Radio Program on 950 AM on Wednesdays at noon.

Father Koys was the first pastor of Immaculate Conception who is not Lithuanian himself, and who speaks Spanish. While this is very helpful for the Hispanic ministry, it presented a challenge for the parish's Lithuanian members. Victor Kelmelis, who has been active in keeping up Immaculate Conception's Lithuanian connections all along, took a hand in seeing to it that Mass would still be offered in the parish's first language.

"Father Fabian Kireilis was at Immaculate Conception from 1973 until 2001," Victor explains, "and it is one of the miracles of our community" that he came and stayed so long. However, when his

health failed, another miracle occurred. Through the tremendous efforts of Salomėja Daulienė and the approval of Bishop Rimantas Norvila in Lithuania, we were able to get a young priest from Lithuania, Father Jaunius Kelpšas, to live at our parish for ten years."

Even if Father Koys didn't speak Lithuanian himself, he learned enough to celebrate Mass in that language, as did his associate pastor, Father Edward Maxa. Father Ed came to Immaculate Conception in 1995, having served in the Archdiocese since his ordination in 1959. Alicia remembers him with special affection.

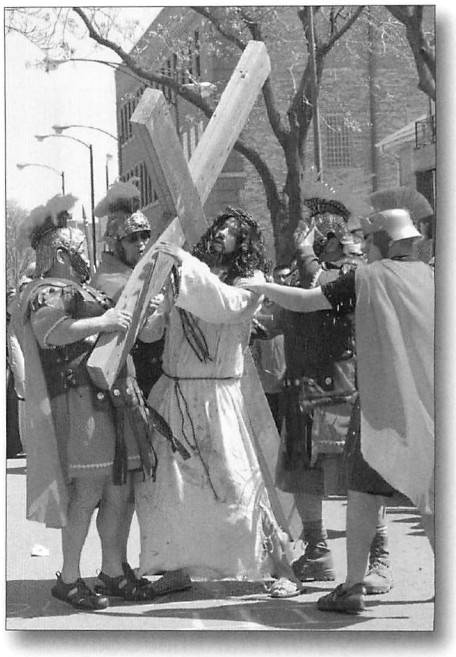
"He was really patient, and dedicated, and spiritual," she recalls. "If anyone ever needed anything, he would never say 'no.' He did so much to help establish the Spanish-speaking community here at Immaculate Conception, too. He was a great guy, always joking around—only, he was always losing his cell phone. He would constantly be going into his office to call himself and try to find it."

Father Koys, for his part, worked well with both the Lithuanian community and the Hispanic community to unite the parish. Under his leadership, the church hall was restored and repainted, the light purple carpeting was replaced with vinyl flooring with a wood design. It was Father Koys who had a beautiful sculpture of Our Lady of Guadalupe placed in front of the church. He was also able to rent out the school building to the Chicago Public School system, giving the parish a good source of rental income.

The Adoration Chapel was added during Father Koys' tenure as well. Designed out of the ushers' room, it features panels of stained glass from the old church. Devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is rooted deeply in the spirituality of the parish.

Back in the days of Monsignor Mozeris, the traditional 40 Hours Devotion was observed at Immaculate Conception, as his bulletin article of September 22, 1974 illustrates. In it, he writes: "With the revision of the liturgy, enthusiastic liturgists focused our attention almost entirely on this public worship of the Church. Private devotions were neglected by them, if not rejected. Yet the Vatican Council itself told us: 'The spiritual life, however, is not limited solely to participation in the liturgy. The Christian must also enter into his chambers to pray to the Father in secret. Popular devotions of the Christian people are to be highly commended.' The liturgy in no way conflicts with a sound appreciation for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. In fact, they complement one another. Anyone who spends some time in church outside of Mass—in prayer and adoration—will participate more perfectly at Mass."

A present-day parishioner who has been especially touched by the experience of Eucharistic adoration is Maria Martinez. Maria was working at a religious goods store when one of Mother Teresa's sisters

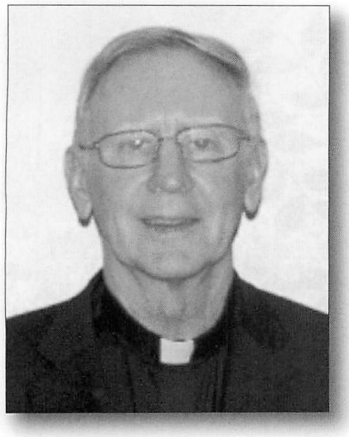


Bulletin article of April 22, 2001, by Father Ed Maxa

First of all, may I sincerely wish each and all the continuing blessings of a happy and blessed Easter! Using the most modern developments of technology and computers, we are now able to include photos in our weekly bulletin. And partly as an effort to develop our ability to do so, and partly in response to Father Tom's fascination with this capability, we are including several photos in this one.

"Stations" or the "Way of the Cross" has been one of Christianity's oldest traditions. This past Good Friday, thousands from the Brighton Park community continued this holy devotion, with a "Living Way of the Cross" which visited each of the four Brighton Park Catholic parishes, and ended with the final Station of the Crucifixion and Burial of Our Lord here at Immaculate Conception. Thanks to the cooperation of teams from St. Pancratius, Our Lady of Fatima, and Immaculate Conception, and the hard work of many of our young people . . . many hearts were touched with the eternal truth of Christ's love from the Cross.

Sixth Pastor
2012 - Present



Rev. Robert P. Coleman
Born: November 21, 1947
Ordained May 10, 1978
by John Cardinal Cody

Bulletin article of July, 2012,
by Father Bob Coleman

Dear Parishioners,

As you probably know by now, Cardinal George has appointed me as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish. The assignment takes effect today, July 1. I am grateful to the Cardinal and to God for the opportunity of serving this community as your priest and pastor.

Unlike some 28 priests who will be moving in to their new parishes as pastors this weekend (including Father Tom), I don't have too far to move, just from one room of the rectory to another. As you know, I've been here since January as I finished my 14 years serving in Mexico, then came to fill in while Father Tom was on his sabbatical. Some of you also know that during my time in Mexico I used to stay here in the rectory when I would come for a visit about once a year. Father Tom was always gracious in giving me a place to "hang my hat." I've always enjoyed my stays here. You can be sure that I'll do the same for him when he wants to get away from the north siders and stay here for awhile.

Change of priests is always difficult, especially when someone has been pastor for 12 years as had Father Tom. But as in life, where no one lasts forever, so too in the Church people move about. And this is healthy. What doesn't change is the Gospel. It is the same message that the Church has been sending out for over 2,000 years. Messengers come and go and will continue to do so until the end of the world. It is our vocation as members of this great parish with its almost 100 year history to be faithful to the message entrusted to us at our baptism and to support and challenge one another on our spiritual journey to eternal life.

came in. Inadvertently, the sister left her purse behind, and Maria hurried after her. When she arrived with the purse at the convent, the sisters invited her in, and Maria found herself praying in their adoration chapel. "When I was there, something happened in my heart," she says. The only way she can put the experience into words is to say that she realized, "I'm home; this is where I belong." Maria is now discerning a religious vocation to the Missionaries of Charity.

Father Koys moved on from Immaculate Conception Parish in July of 2012. He was replaced by his friend and fellow Chicago native Father Robert P. Coleman. Father Ed Maxa would have stayed on at Immaculate Conception, but died suddenly on July 26 of the same year.

The Faces of Immaculate Conception's Future

Father Coleman, Immaculate Conception's sixth pastor, had served at St. Philomena Parish before doing missionary work in rural Guerrero, Mexico, for more than a decade. When he returned to America, he found the culture quite changed. "People sit at the dinner table looking at their phones, and texting people who aren't even there," he once complained. Now, however, Father is emailing as adeptly as the youngest among us.

While Father Coleman's Spanish is very good, his Lithuanian is not. When Father Kelpšas left in 2010, it marked the end of having a Lithuanian-speaking priest in residence. In order to keep the practice of celebrating Mass in Lithuanian going, a couple of priests helped out until, in 2012, Bishop Norvila sent Father Gedminas Keršys to assist at several Lithuanian parishes including Immaculate Conception.

Under Father Coleman's leadership, the church has been repainted, lighting fixtures cleaned and repaired, and a new sound system put in. In 2013, the school building was rented by UNO Charter School, and is currently being renovated to accommodate 600 students. The church hall has been converted to eight classrooms. A new addition is being added to the school building where the priest's garage used to be. The Mass honoring the Immaculate Conception's one hundredth anniversary was celebrated on September 21, 2014.

As part of the preparation for the event, the three shrines in the church were renovated—shrines representing the great devotion to the Blessed Mother shared by Lithuanians and Mexicans alike. The first shrine commemorates the apparition of Mary in Lithuania in 1608, under the title of "Our Lady of Šiluva." Its background colors

are yellow, green, and red—representing the Lithuanian flag. Above a statue of Mary holding the Christ Child are the words, "Šiluvos Mergele Marija, Melski Už Mus," which means, "Our Lady of Šiluva, pray for us," in Lithuanian. On either side of Our Lady there are statues of Blessed Archbishop Jurgis Matulaitis and St. Casimir.

The second shrine is also dedicated to Our Lady, but under the title, "Immaculate Conception." The words, "Immaculate Conception, Pray for Us," appear in English, while the statue of Mary shows her with hands pressed together in an attitude of humble prayer. In 1858, a "beautiful lady" appeared to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes, France. When the child asked her who she was, Mary replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

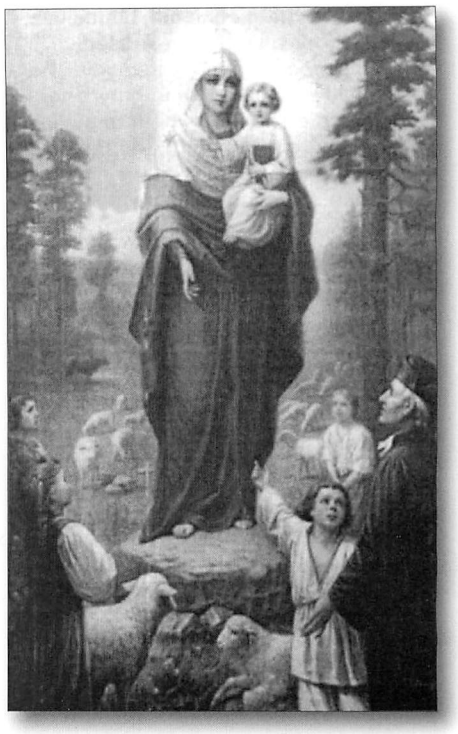
The third shrine emphasizes Divine Mercy. This devotion was revealed to Sister Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who became a mystic during the course of her short life (1905-1938). In visions, Our Lord told her how greatly He loves each member of the human race, and how urgently He wants us to repent of our sins, receive His boundless mercy, and join ourselves to Him in God's love. Sister Faustina wrote all this down in her *Diary,* and had an image painted of Jesus showing red and white rays of grace streaming down to us from His Sacred Heart. This painting has become one of the most cherished images in contemporary Catholic life, and is displayed centrally in Immaculate Conception's third shrine. On one side of it, there is a statue of Sister Faustina herself and, on the other, there is a statue of St. John Paul II, who greatly promoted this devotion. Above the painting and the statues the words, "Jesus, Confio En Ti," proclaim, "Jesus, I Trust in You," in Spanish.

The sixty families who joined together a century ago would be proud to know that, today, Immaculate Conception is an active urban parish with 2,500 registered families. Twelve-year-old Lucy Sanchez belongs to one of them. "To be part of this parish is a blessing God has given me," she says. "I love this church."

She certainly puts her time and energy where her heart is—lectoring, being an altar server, and witnessing to the Catholic faith in her own grade-school environment. "Some people think Mass is boring," Lucy remarks. "They think it's for little kids or old people only. They say, 'I'm too busy,' and they make excuses not to go. I wish they would realize that Mass is a great thing. In fact, it is the greatest thing of all. "

Also, Lucy sings. "That's my talent," she adds with a lovely laugh, "so I use it! I don't really care what other people think. I only think of God. Someone said to me once, 'God gave you this gift so that you could praise Him in a powerful way.' So that is what I do."

Our Lady of Šiluva



Lithuania became a Catholic country when its king, Mindaugas, was baptized in 1251 A.D. In 1457, a nobleman by the name of Petras Giedgaudas was inspired to build a church dedicated to the Nativity of Our Lady in the city of Šiluva. Pilgrimages to that place every September 8th became a central feature of Lithuanian popular devotion.

The Protestant Reformation would take its toll, however. The area became predominantly Lutheran, and then Calvinist, and the practice of the Catholic Faith nearly died out. Eventually, God Himself decided to intervene.

In 1608, some children were tending sheep near Šiluva when a beautiful woman, in a flowing blue and white dress, not at all typical of outfits they were familiar with, appeared on top of a nearby rock. She was holding a small child and weeping as though her heart would break. The children described their experiences and were invalidated by the adults around them, much as would happen to the three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, at the beginning of the following century. But they, too, stuck to their story, and went back to the site of the apparition the next day.

This time, they asked the beautiful woman why she was crying: because, "formerly in this place," she answered, "My Son was honored and adored, but now all that the people do is seed and cultivate the land." The Calvinists were not pleased. They tried to write off the apparition as the work of the Devil, but the story spread like wildfire, and they couldn't suppress it.

Continued on next page

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It reached the ears of an old, blind man from a nearby village, who suddenly recalled the time when, years earlier, he had helped an area priest to bury, and thus preserve sacred items from a Catholic church. His sight was restored, and he was able to pinpoint the exact location to dig. In the chest which was recovered, the image now known as Our Lady of Siluva was found and providentially restored to the Lithuanian people.

They still had to keep fighting, however, in order to keep the Faith. In 1795, their country was taken over by Russia in an event known as the "Great Partition." It was forbidden to speak Lithuanian, to publish religious materials, or to travel without permission, which was seldom granted. The struggle for the preservation of Lithuanian culture and religion continued through the Soviet era and still continues, to some extent, in our own day—in Lithuania itself, and in the hearts of all who love her. At one time, Immaculate Conception was the largest Lithuanian parish in the United States of America.

Homero Frias joined Immaculate Conception in 2010, having come to the United States from Mexico in 2008. "I was an altar boy back at home, but I never really thought much about the Faith at the time," Homero attests.

As a recent immigrant to this country, Homero found work cleaning windows in downtown Chicago. It was going well until the day his harness broke, "and I fell down eight floors, and almost died." Instead, his life was incredibly spared.

As is recorded in the lives of many saints, Homero found his time of physical recovery to be a time of drawing closer to God. Four surgeries and two years of therapy later, Homero, still in his twenties, is firmly convinced that "He wants something of me." Serving for the time being as a catechist and lector, Homero intends to find out exactly what that something is.

Stories like these inspire confidence in the providence of God. Just as He prompted Immaculate Conception's sixty founding families to start the parish, so too He will guide and protect those responsible for continuing it in the future. Pablo Padillo, among others, feels a great responsibility to "keep the structures, as well as the ministries, going." May God bless Immaculate Conception Parish as it embarks on its next hundred years!

Written by Helen Weir, MI

Left and above: Adoration Chapel

Above: Crowd attending funeral services for Msgr. Briška on Sept. 5, 1953 - first pastor of our church.

"The Old Barn" replaces the Dance Pavillion

Cardinal Stritch blesses casket containing body of Msgr. Briška.

The first official picture (1915) of the Knights of Lithuania of Immaculate Conception Parish. Seated in front row are: Anastasia Guzaite, Stanley Pieza, Ann Jovaisaite (Javois) and Mamie Macaite. Seated in the second row center is Petras Kvietkus, president.

Fr. Briška and school children during addition of second story in 1920.

Sanctuary of the old church

Ground breaking for the Sisters Convent on October 25, 1925.

Msgr. Mozeris with Bishop Brizgys, Msgr. Burke and Rev. Stankevicius at civil testimonial in his honor on March 10, 1954.

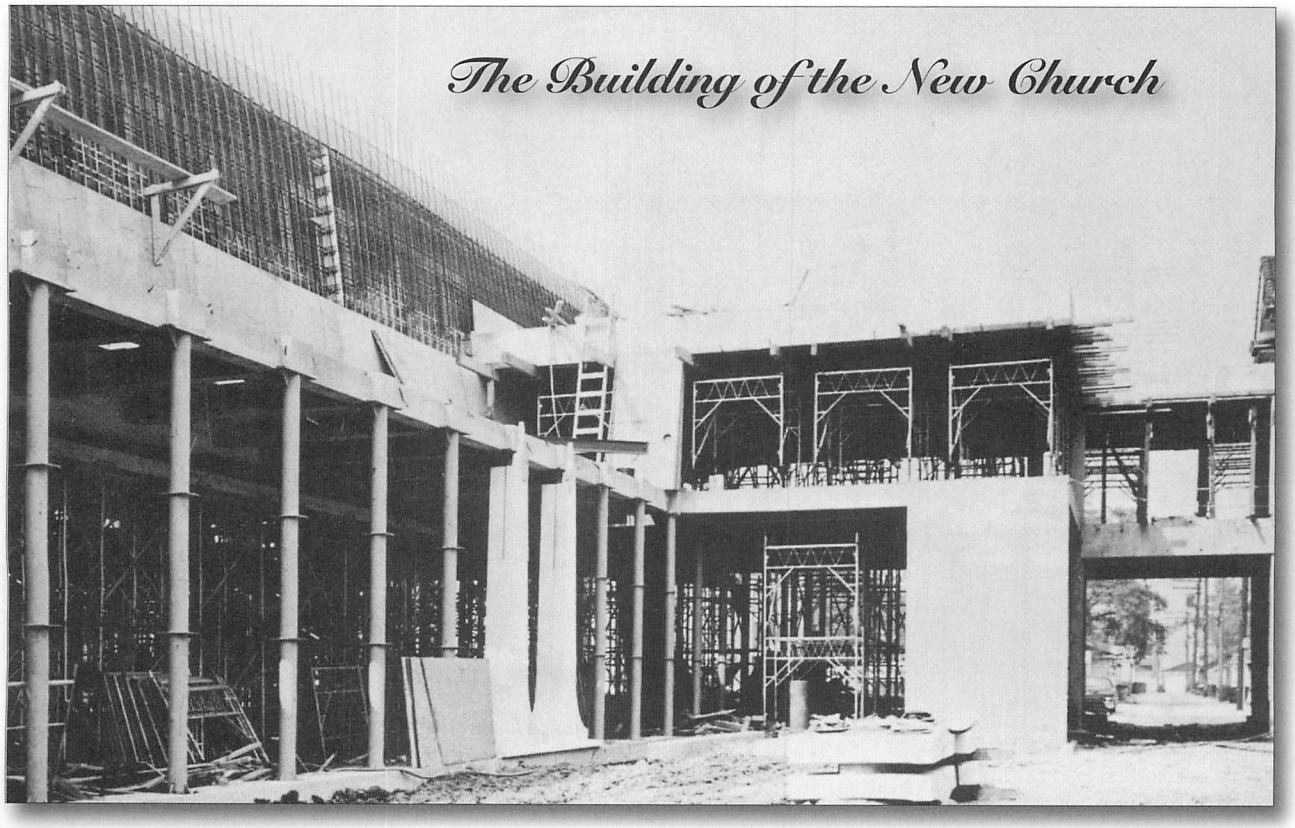
Immaculate Conception Parish before construction of new church.

Msgr. is seen with the late Cardinal Stritch, who appointed him pastor of I.C. Parish.

Lithuanian School at Immaculate Conception, 1950 - 1988.

Msgr. Mozeris celebrates his Silver Jubilee Mass.

The Lithuanian School principal was Mrs. Sofija Jonynienė.



1963 view of the east wall showing steel supports of lower roof and reinforcing rods for ceilings.

Parishioners and religious celebrate the Silver Jubliee in 1939.

Golden Jubilee Year - First Communion Class of 1964

Pope John Paul II visits Brighton Park in 1979

Our school children await the arrival of Pope John Paul II in 1979.

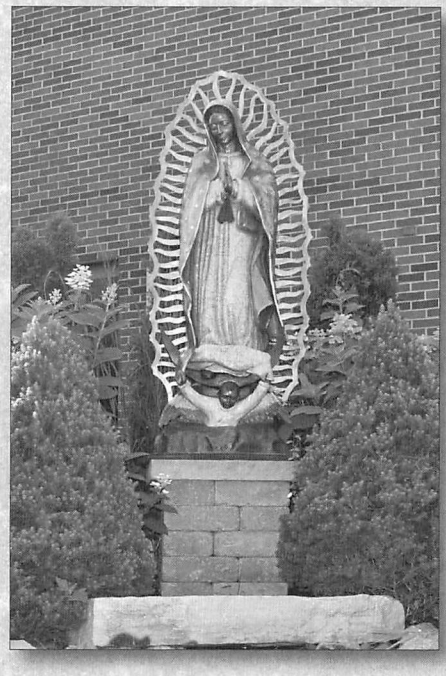
The Pope waves at the crowd and at our children as he passes by our church.

In 1987, under the leadership of Fr. John Kuzinskas, a large wooden cross was erected in front of the rectory commemorating the 600th Anniversary of Christianity in Lithuania.

May 23, 1982
"Mortgage Burning"
A joyous group, Mary Kinčius, Pete Katauskas, Stan Kloba, Joseph Katauskas and Monsignor Mozeris watch as the Mortgage of the new Church goes up in smoke.

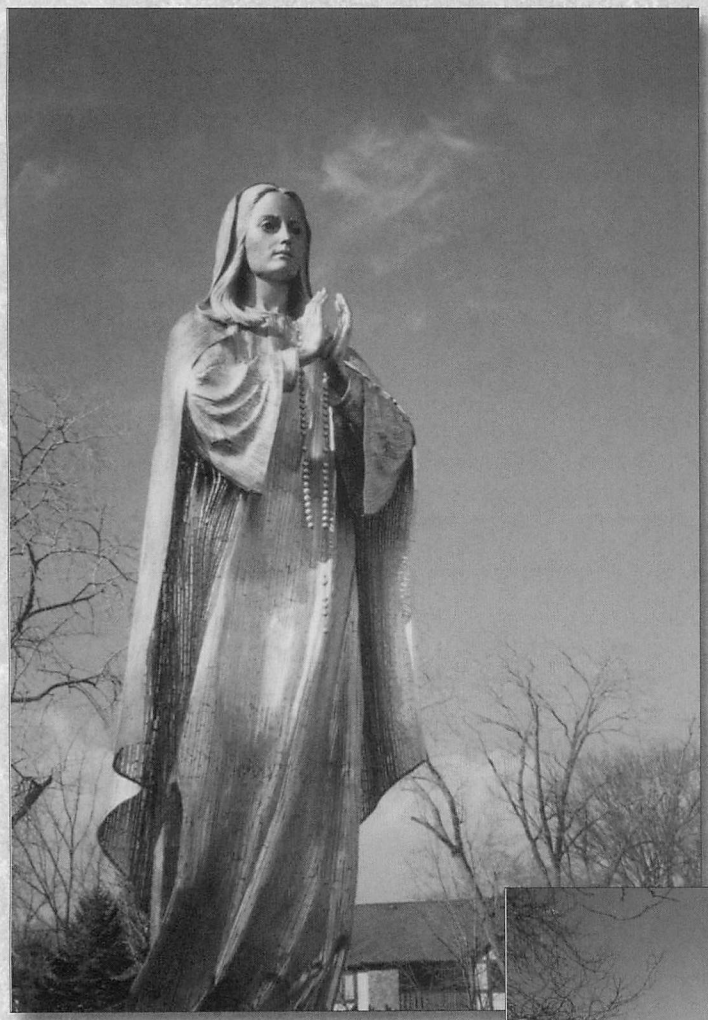
1989 DIAMOND JUBILEE CONFIRMATION CLASS – Top Row, Left to Right – Josephine Nowak, Michael Micka, Clifford Mitcheff, Amy Katauskas, Jennifer Casto, Jamie Piotrowski, Vincent Escamilla, Raphael Cartegena. 2nd Row Top, Left to Right — Michelle Antosiak, Jodie Rzasa, Sarah Pilat, Kristina Jensen, Maribel Castro, Melanie Pecher, Kelly Barry. 3rd Row From Top, Left to Right — Kristina Ibarra, Lisa Mauricio, Debbie Lindzius, Rachel Wasilkus, Wendy Wierzgacz, Carla Gallik, Denise Michalski, Lisa Grazys, Agatha Chyc, Milissa Knifke, Tina Gesiakowski, James Tokarz. 4th Row From Top, Left to Right — Joe Love, Anthony Pontrelli, Andrew Ibarra, David Griggs, Daniel Hornik, Eric Lugo, Anthony Juggan, Robert Ciszek, Kenneth Szymborski, Mario Escobedo. 5th Row From Top, Left to Right — Mrs. Theresa Milewski (Teacher), Denise Barfel, Stanley Kalicki, Carlos Fabian, Thomas Mann, Steven Corcoran, Robin Alaniz, Julie Placas, Tisha Kulovitz, Cynthia Diaz, Sue Buchholz, Mrs. J. Martinez (Teacher), Ange Rivera. Front Row, Left to Right — Rocio Leon, Tiffnay Gurgone, Bianca Castillo, Fr. Fabian Kirielis, Fr. John Kuzinskas, His. Excl. Bishop W. Gregory, Fr. A. Puchenski, Pastor, Mr. John Henson, Mr. Victor Tarasewicz.

September 26, 2010
Inauguration of
The Shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe
by Bishop Gustavo Siller, MSpS.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine

Spring, 2001
Our Lady of the New Millennium Statue Visits Immaculate Conception Parish



Commissioned by Oak Lawn resident Carl Demma, Our Lady of the New Millenium is 8,400 pounds of stainless steel. The Madonna stands almost 34 feet and is draped in a glinting welded cloak. With open hands and gentle feautures, which appear somehow soft, she greets the faithful.

The statue depicting the mother of Jesus was on a kind of pilgrimage, traveling from parish to parish since its completion in 1999, the year before Demma died. It has towered over churches in and around Chicago, even appearing once at Navy Pier.

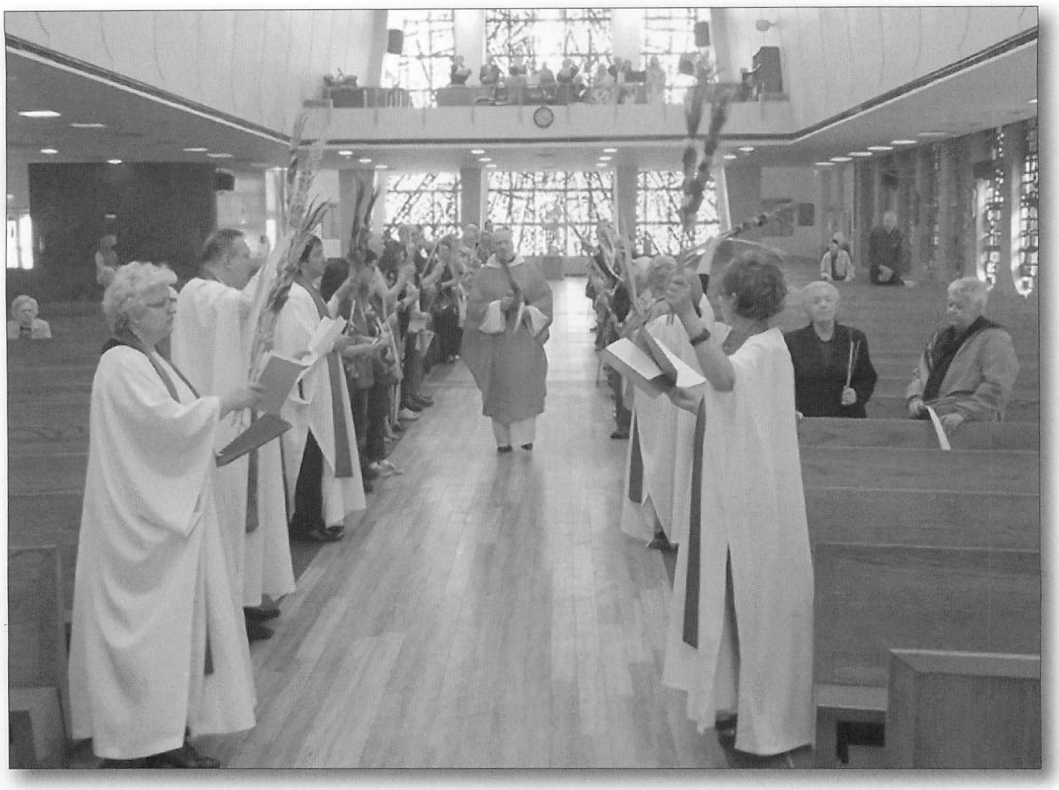
Worshippers came by the thousands to pray in parking lots to the statue as it strectched toward the heavens.

In 2011, after more than 10 years of touring, the three-story statue of the Virgin Mary found a permanent home in St. John, Indiana near St. John's Evangelist Church.

May Crowning

Mother's Day

Feast of the
Three Kings

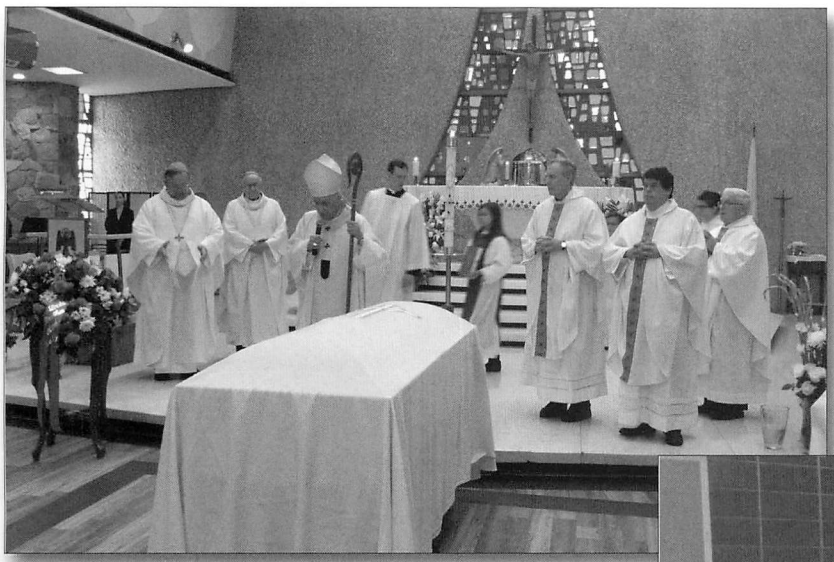


Palm Sunday

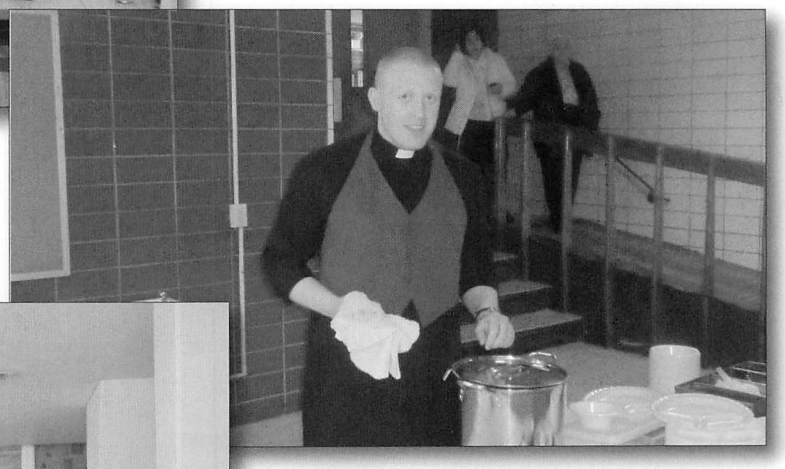
Our Lady of Šiluva Mass

Good Friday Way of the Cross

Good Friday Way of the Cross



Fr. Edward Maxa's Funeral, July, 2012



Lithuanian Fundraiser 2013: Father Gediminas Keršys cooks cabbage soup for parishioners

2012 Memorial Mass for 14 Lithuanians killed under Soviet tanks on January 13, 1991

Lithuanian Independence Day celebration

Centennial Events

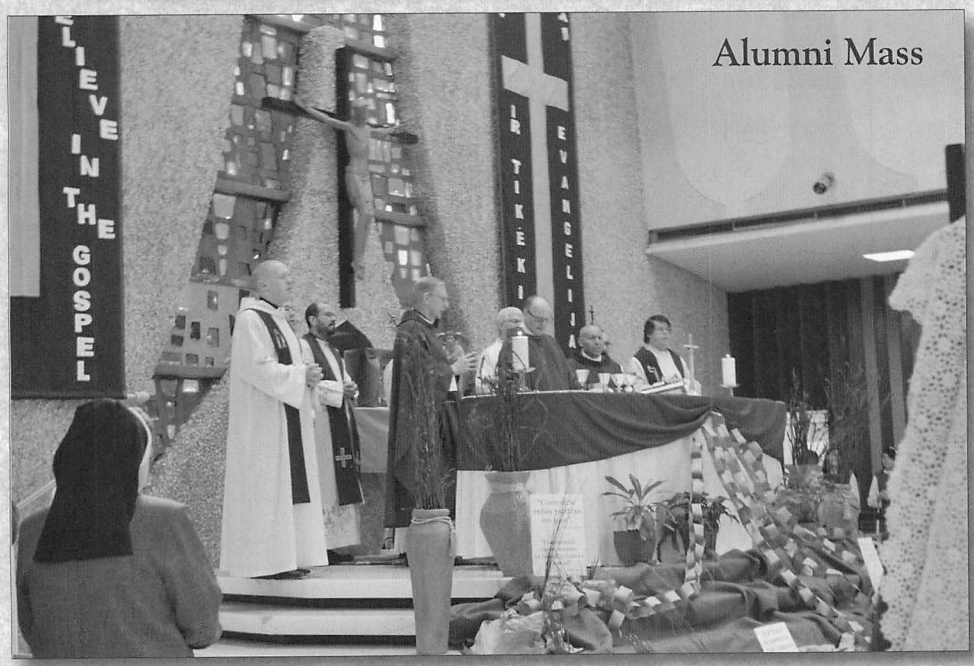
September 8, 2013

Photos by Nelza Rodriguez

Above and right: I.C. Centennial Opening Mass

Left: Bishop Alberto Rojas and guests at Parish Hall

Immaculate Conception Parish
Alumni Mass, April 5, 2014
1914 - 2014
100th Anniversary



Alumni Mass

The Hon. Marijus Gudynas, Lithuanian Consul General in Chicago

1930's and 1940's Immaculate Conception graduates

I.C. Class of 1961

1969 Immaculate Conception graduates with Father Peter Paurazas

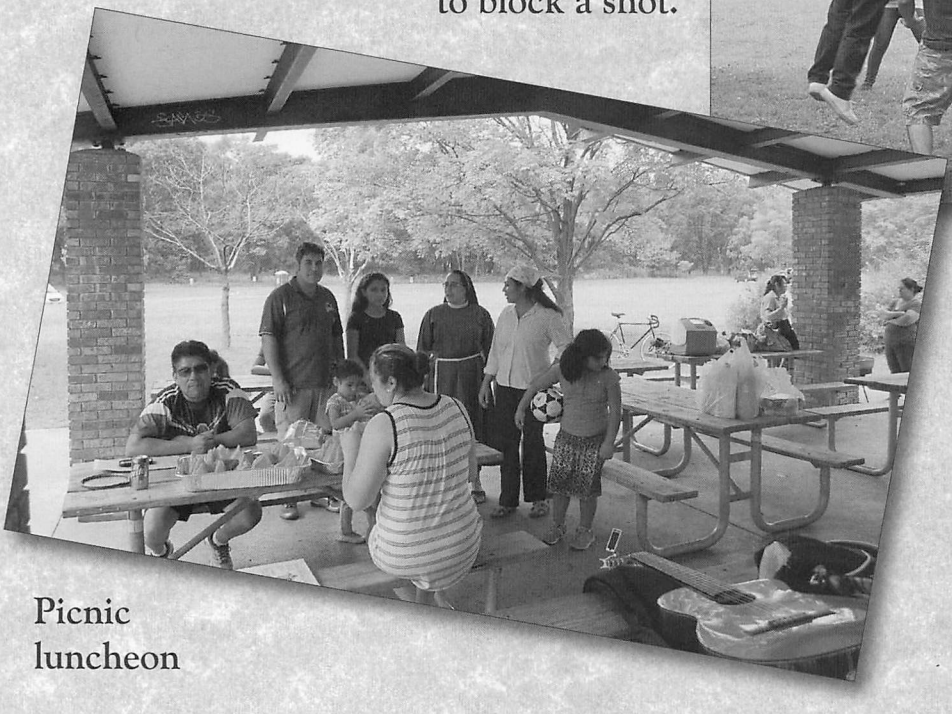
1970's Immaculate Conception graduates

1980's and 1990's Immaculate Conception graduates

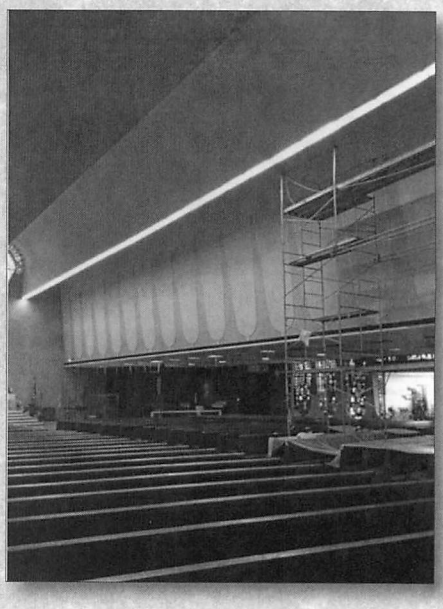
I.C. Men's Club Alumni with Fr. Coleman

Parish Picnic, August 2014
Volleyball Game

Father Coleman goes up to block a shot.

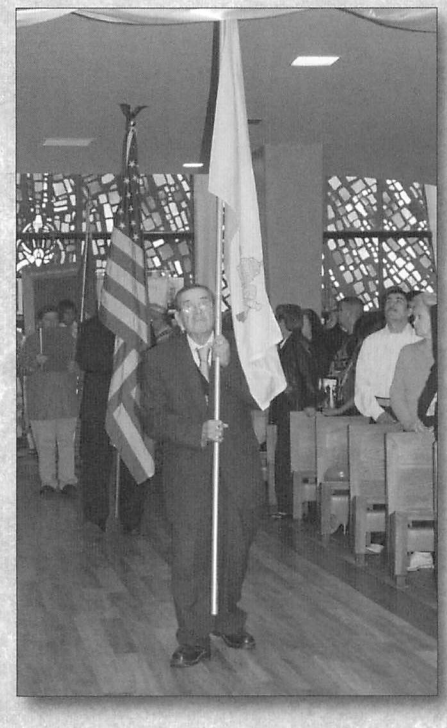


Picnic luncheon

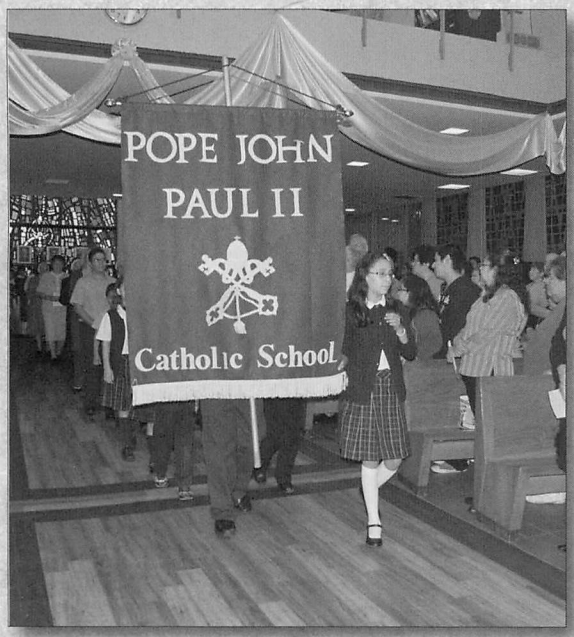


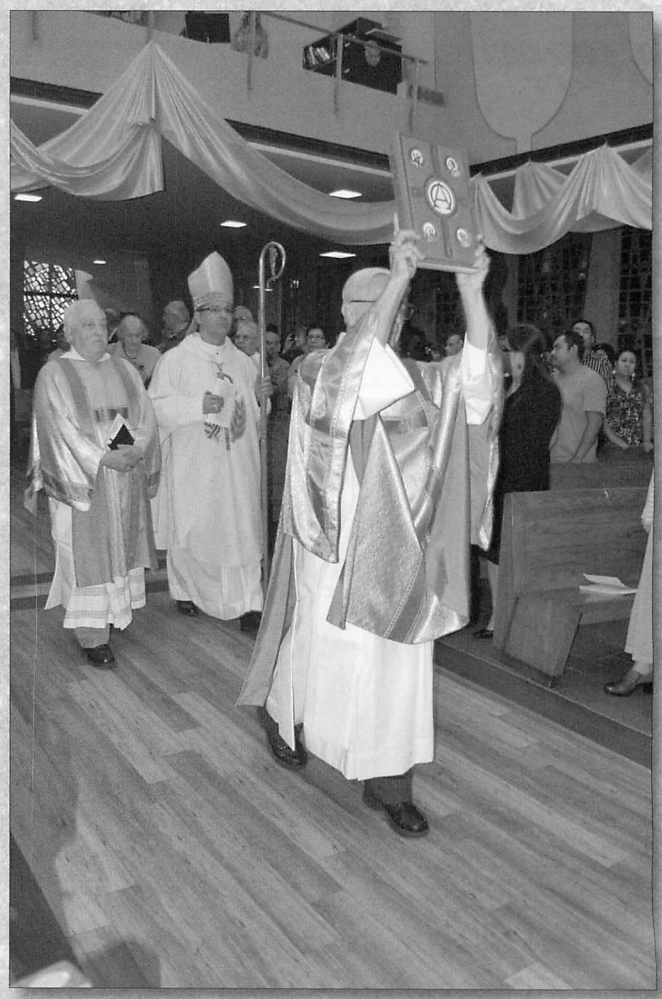
Painting the Church, Summer 2014

Immaculate Conception Parish
Centennial Mass
1914 - 2014

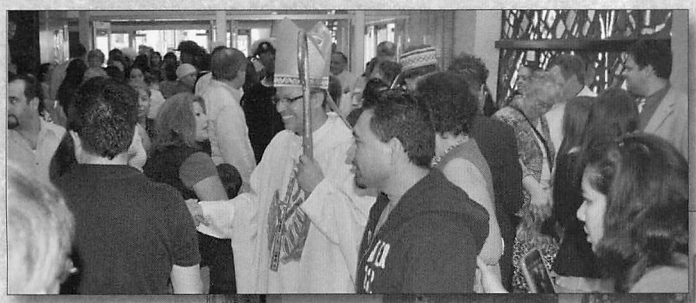


Celebrant: Bishop Alberto Rojas
September 21, 2014


POPE JOHN
PAUL II
Catholic School



Šventoji Marija
melski už mus
Holy Mary,
pray for us
Santa Maria,
ruega por
nosotros



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
CATHOLIC CHURCH
773-523-1402
WELCOME
CARDINAL GEORGE
CENTENNIAL MASS
SUN SEPT 21 2 PM
GAIDAS-DAIMID
FUNERAL DIRECTORS PARKING
MASS SCHEDULE
MONDAY TO FRIDAY:
SATURDAY
SUNDAY:
12:00 NOON AND 6:00 PM SPANISH
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
SATURDAY: 3:30 TO 4:30 PM

Immaculate Conception Parish

PROGRAM

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES
Mrs. Florencia Diaz

INVOCATION
Fr. Thomas Koys

TOASTS

MEAL

LITHUANIAN SUKTINIS DANCE GROUP

PRESENTATION
Mr. Victor Kelmelis
Class of 1973

MEXICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE GROUP

COMMENTS FROM OUR PASTOR
Fr. Robert P. Coleman

SPLIT THE POT RAFFLE DRAWING

CLOSING BENEDICTION
Fr. Jaunius Kelpsas

SOCIALIZING AND DANCING

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women and
blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

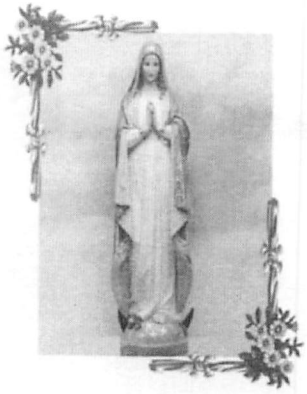
Hail Mary in Lithuanian

Sveika, Marija, malonės pilnoji, Viešpats su Tavimi.
Tu pagirta tarp moterų ir pagirtas Tavo sūnus-Jėzus.
Šventoji Marija, Dievo Motina, Melsk už mus,
nusidėjėlius, Dabar ir mūsų mirties valandoje.
Amen.

Ave Maria

Dios te salve María, llena eres de gracia,
el Señor es Contigo,
bendita tú eres entre todas las mujeres,
y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre, Jesús.
Santa María Madre de Dios ruega por nosotros,
los pecadores, ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte.
Amén.

Immaculate Conception,

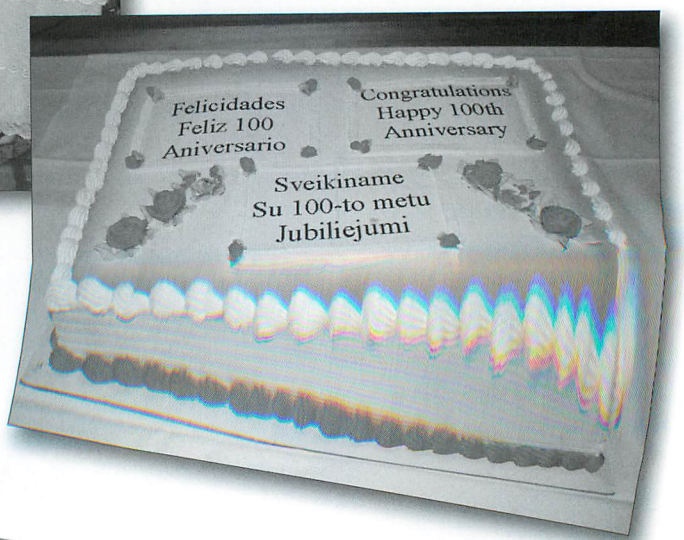


Pray for us.

Centennial Banquet, Mayfield Banquet Facility September 28, 2014

Memorabilia Table

Guests are welcomed



Above:
Mayfield Banquet Hall

Left: Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

Guests

Sisters of
St. Casimir

Fr. Coleman's Family

"Name That Pastor" Game Show

Musical Entertainment by
Mr. and Mrs. Algimantas Barniškis

Lithuanian Dancing Group "Suktinis"

Mexican Folkloric Dance Group

Appreciation Letter from the Sisters of St. Casimir

Dear Fr. Coleman and parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish,

Thank you for welcoming us so warmly to the 100th anniversary celebration of your parish. The event was beautifully planned from the Eucharistic Liturgy on September 21st to the banquet on September 28th.

For one hundred years Immaculate Conception Parish been a blessing to so many people whose faith and vision and sacrifice have helped to build this place of prayer, education, healing, and Service, this dwelling place of God, a place of welcome for all people.

We Sister's of St. Casimir are grateful to have part of this wonderful history, initially as teachers and administrators in the school, and now as friends. Immaculate Conception School was established in 1916 and it was six years later in 1922 that our Sisters came to serve there, a ministry that lasted 77 years. After the school closed in 1999, some sisters remained in the parish, assisting in various ways until 2006.

It was our privilege to be part of this parish, to teach your children, to come to know you, and to take part in your worship, meetings, and celebrations. All of us have fond memories of being at Immaculate Conception and we were so happy to meet some of our former students earlier this year as part of the special events of this jubilee year.

We congratulate each and every one of you for making this parish what it is today. It began with strong Lithuanian roots and has grown to welcome people of diverse cultures and backgrounds, today primarily of Hispanic heritage

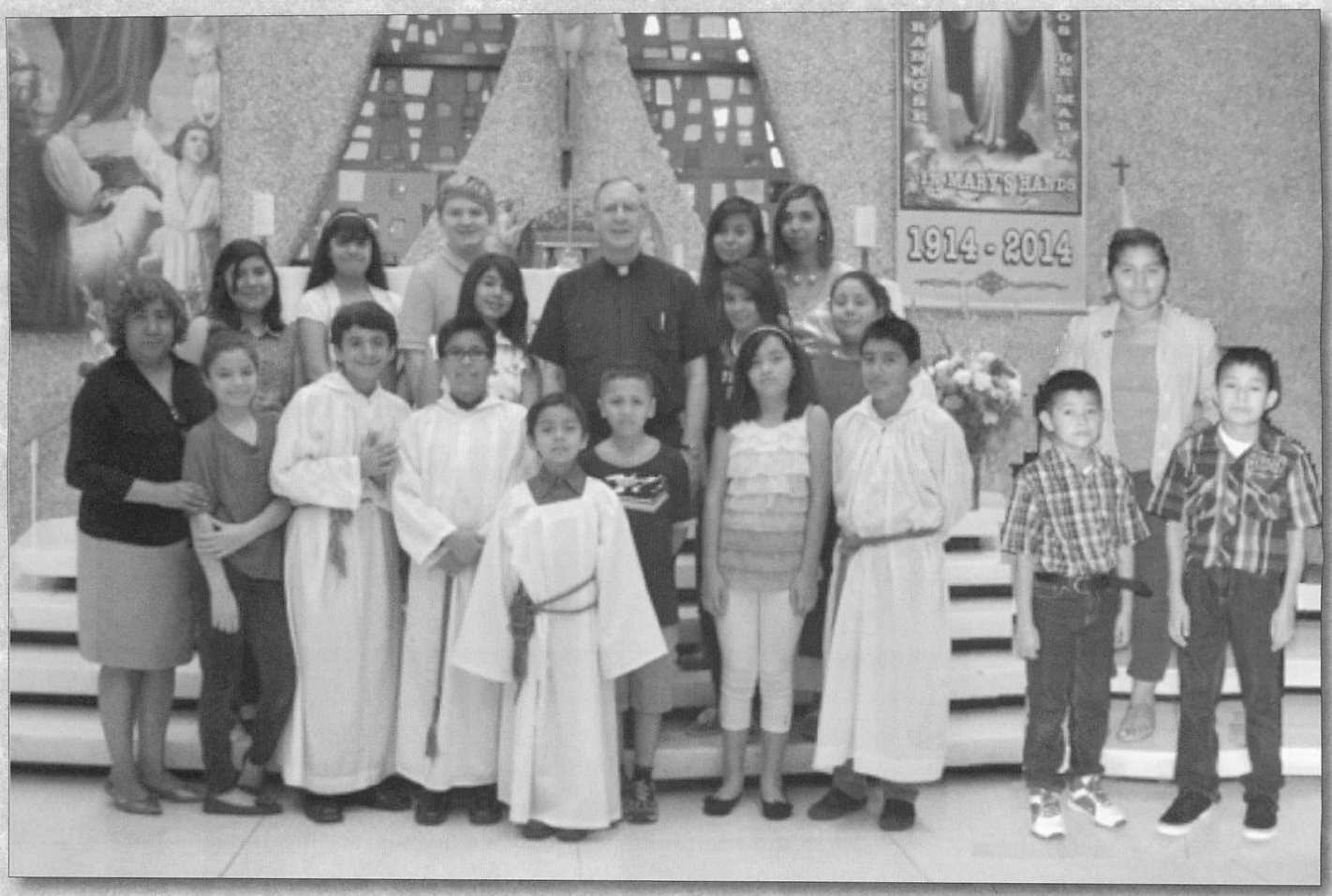
We pray that you may remain rooted in God's Holy Spirit, who is always making all things new. May you continue to embrace the future with the same hope and vision, and faith of those who came before you, as you re0comiit yourselves to a new century of living out your faith and love for God and neighbor at Immaculate Conception Parish.

We Sisters will keep you in our prayers. We love you and are honored to be part of your history.

With gratitude and prayers,
Sister Regina Dubickas
And the Sisters of St. Casimir

Sister Regina Marie Dubickas was a teacher and a Vocation and Formation Director before receiving a doctorate in Psychology in 1995 and beginning her work in a hospital setting and later in private practice. She always found it a privilege to come to know people at a deeper level, help them discover their inner richness and strength, and accompany them during some of the more difficult parts of their life journey. The words of Mother Maria Kaupas that are a particlar inspiration to her are "God is here." Sister Regina Marie enjoys reading and poetry, pinochle and Sudoku. *"Our Chapter theme, 'Behold I am doing something new! Do you not perceive it?' (Is 43,19) continues to resonate in my heart as we embrace the mystery of God's call and all that is part of the unfolding of our community's charism and mission. 'Led by God's Spirit and companioned by one another, we embrace our time as holy, our leaderhip as a gift, and our challenges as blessing.' (LCWR)."*

ALTAR SERVERS
Servidores del Altar



Izquierda del Padre: Rev. Roberto Coleman, Itzel, Jazmin, Ashley, Azul, Miriam, Hector, Nancy, Ariel y Jesus.
Derecha del Padre: Yamileth, Lucy, Nicolás, Roberto, Mario, Leslie y María Hueramo Coordinadora.

Servidores que no están en la foto / missing from the photo:
Xitlali, Xavier, Xitlaly, Jaime, Veronica, Victoria, Alejandro, Elijah, Roberto, Alonso, Luis, Rodrigo, Edgar, Francisco, Israel, Paulina, Evelyn y Ariane.

Camino Neocatecumenal

Responsable Coordinador 1ra Comunidad de Inmaculada Concepción: Ariel y Iselle Andrade
Vice Responsable: Rocilo y Pilar Castro
Co-Responsable de la 1ra Comunidad: Oscar y María Guadalupe Flores
Responsable de la 2da Comunidad: Salvador y Perla Martínez
Co-Responsable de la 2da Comunidad: Nicolás y Griselda Reyes

Capilla De Adoración Adoration Chapel

Front Row: left to right:
Lidia León, Elvia, Elvira Ávila, María Patino, Carolina López, Yolanda, Hermila Martínez,
Ángela Díaz, Esther Tapia, Norma Gutiérrez and Guillermo Gutiérrez
Second Row: left to right:
Sabas Ávila, Irene Martínez, María Martínez, Gabriela González, Isabel Sandoval, Guillermo Ochoa, María Isabel Muñoz, María de Jesús Cárdenas and Luz Tolentino

CCD Teachers/ Catequistas Religious Education 2014-2015

Front Row: Left to right: Hermana Irma Flores, Coordinadora, Verónica López, Gloria E. Martínez, Blanca Salgado, Sandy Hernández, Micaela Sixtos, Ana Nawara, Griselda, Norma Gutiérrez, María García, Ramona medina, Inez Cirlei and Cristina Herrera
Second Row: left to right: Ángel Mendoza, Socorro Prieto , John Nawara, Rev. Robert Coleman, Víctor Negrete, Gudelia Castro, Teresa Zamarron, María C. Ulloa, and Juan Herrera
Third Row: Left to right: Hermana Gloria Redondo Pastoral Associate, Rev. Armando Ramírez-Ruiz, Jorge Moreno, Gerardo Castro, Ramón Morales y José Luis Salgado

Centennial Committee

Seated (from left to right): Florencia Diaz, Maria Hueramo, Rev. Robert Coleman, Teresa Zamarron, Norma Gutierrez
Standing (from left to right): Victor Kelmelis, Pablo Padilla, Carl Heid, Everardo Coss, Angel Mendoza
Missing from photo: Bernard Judeikis

Patricia Cornejo, Francisco Cruz and Josefina Díaz

Coro: Arco Iris de Belén

From left to right:
Berta Torres, Nayeli Flores, Nancy Andraca, R. David Hernández

Coro: Cantemos al Señor

Coro de Niños Inmaculada Concepción

Lucia Sánchez, HNA. Irma Flores y Gabriella González

Coro: Nuevo Amanecer

Aquileo López, Carmen García, Gema Duran y Andrés García

English Mass Lectors, Altar Servers and Eucharistic Ministers

(from left to right)
Rev. Armando Ramírez-Ruiz, María Vega, James Kotula, Natalie Hummel, Donald Nauyokas, Henoc Martínez, Bernard Judeikis, Alejandro Vega, Lucy Sanchez, Rev. Robert Coleman and Eliseo Arredondo

Finance Committee

First Row (seated from left to right): Maria Vega, Business Manager Bill O'Brien, Father Robert Coleman, Florencia Diaz
Second Row (standing): Fr. Armando Ramirez-Ruiz, Chuck Frayer, Vyto Stanevičius, Francisco Romero, Victor Kelmelis
Missing from the picture: Daniel Maciel, Ariel & Iselle Andrade

GAP
Grupo de Apoyo para Parejas

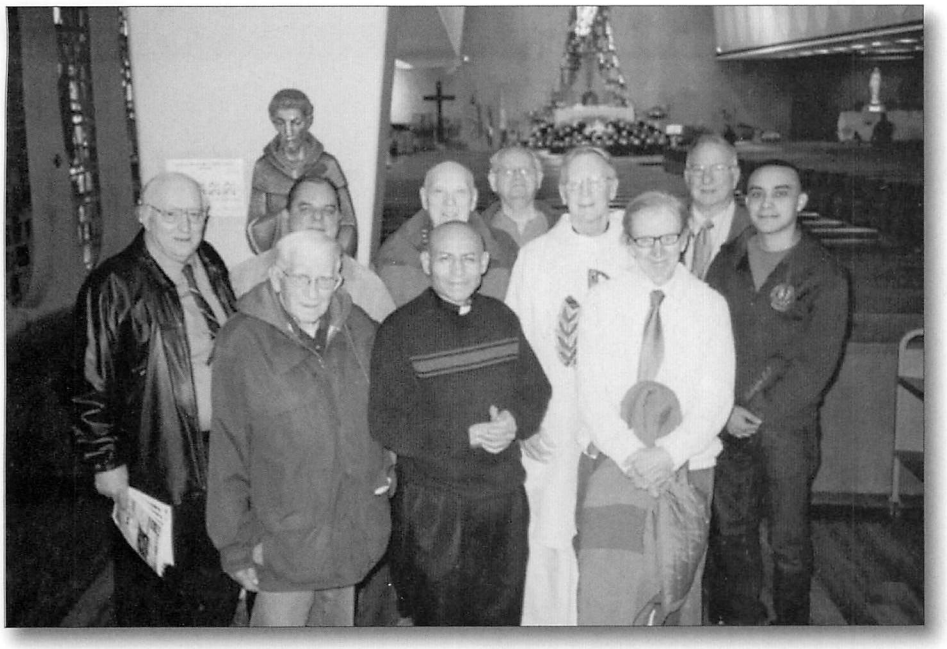
Silvia & Daniel Maciel, María & José Amaya, Martha & Pablo Padilla, Elvira (missing from the photo) & David Hernández and Víctor Álvarez, Psychologist

Grupo de Adolescentes "Virgin De Guadalupe"

Front Row: left to right: Lizbeth, Hermana Gloria Redondo Pastoral Associate, Nancy Moya
Second Row: left to right: Ariane Moya, Jose Rojas, Jose Garza, Rev. Robert Coleman, Cynthia Quevedo,
Itzel Aguirre, Jennifer Quevedo and Victoria Vega

Grupo de Matrimonios Nuevo Amanecer

J. Luis Delgado & Teresa Zamarrón, Wenseslao & Gisela, Arnulfo & Manuela Macías,
Juan (missing from photo & Micaela Sixtos, Guillermina, Fortino & Irma Bautista
Pablo & Norma Ramírez, Alfonso & Mariana Saucedo



English & Lithuanian Mass Ushers

Front Row (left to right):
Roy Michaelson, Rev. Armando Ramirez-Ruiz, Robert Rokas

Back Row:
Carl Heid, Darius Krupovisovas, Adam Tumas, Donald Nauyokas, Rev. Robert P. Coleman, Bernard Judeikis and David Floren

Missing from Photo
James Matela, Algis (Frank) Zailskas & Vytas Stanevičius

Lithuanian Mass Church Choir

First Row (from left to right): Palmyra Gilienė, Vilija Vakarytė (President) & Ligita Barniškienė,
Second Row: Leonardas Gogelis, Vladas Kybartas, Vytas Stanevičius, Algimantas Barniškis (Choir Director), Viktoras Kelmelis & Jurgis Vidžiūnas
Missing from photo: Jūratė Čepaitienė, Dalia Cain, Povilas Juodvalkis, Loreta Kalec, Dalia Vaitkutė-Duarte and Nijole Grincevičiūtė

Lithuanian Prayer and Bible Study Group

Vytas Stanevičius (center), Moderator
This group has 12 members and meets every Wednesday night to study the word of God and pray.

Knights of Columbus Caballeros de Colon

Front Row: left to right:
José Cahue, Edwin Álvarez, Jorge Moreno, Eduardo Partida, Guadalupe González and Ramón Morales
Second Row: left to right:
R. David Hernández, Ricardo Acosta, José Álvarez, Alfonso Cisneros Jr. and Everardo Gaeta.
Third Row: right to left:
Juan Franco, Leopoldo González, Luis Guzmán, Everardo Coss and
Alfonso Cisneros

Legion of Mary Legió de Maria

Patricia Garza, María, Raquel, María González, Teresa, Leticia, Yessica, Arizbe Pérez, Gabriela González, Carolina, Patty Sánchez, Elvira, Carmen, Epifanía, Sofía

Lithuanian American Community, Inc.,

Brighton Park Chapter Officers

First Row (from left to right): Birutė Juodvalkienė, Sigita Tylienė-Šlutienė, Irena Noreikienė, Dalia Urbonienė, Salomėja Daulienė & Palmyra Gilienė, **Second Row**: Vytas Stanevičius, Liudas Kužmarskis, Viktoras Kelmelis, Rev. Gediminas Keršys & Robertas Damašauskas

Lithuanian American Roman Catholic Women's Alliance

Chapter 20

Above: Seated; E. Majauskas, Ph. Danta, V. Tijūnėlis, Rev. G. Keršys, S. Viščius, S. Daulys. Row 2: A. Gedaminas, A. Vadeiša, D. Baniulienė, E. Pretkelis, B. Peleckas, V. Šilas. Top row: P. Gilienė, D. Urbonas, R. Mikuckienė, B. Maleckas.

Left: Seated; V. Tijūnėlis, S. Viščius, Rev. Robert Coleman, Pastor, Rev. Armando Ramirez-Ruiz, S. Daulys, S. Miliaukas, E. Majauskas. Row 2; B. Maleckas, M. Neniškis, Ph. Danta, V. Šilas, E., Pretkelis, A. Gedaminas. Top row; V. Viščius-Musielak, A. Vadeiša, D. Urbonas, J. Davidavičienė.

Lithuanian Mass Altar Servers

(from left to right)
Thomas Fanelli, Nicholas Fanelli, Nicole Fanelli and
Rev. Gediminas Keršys

Lithuanian Mass Eucharistic Ministers

(from left to right)
Viktoras Kelmelis, Joana Drūtytė, Reid Fanelli and
Rev. Gediminas Keršys

Lithuanian Mass Lectors, Cantors & Altar Servers

From left to right: Apolonija Steponavičienė, Gintaras Ilevičius, Nicole Fanelli, Raminta Mikuckienė, Thomas Fanelli, Joana Drūtys (Leader) & Viktoras Kelmelis
Missing from Photo: Daiva Vaitkutė-Duarte, Sigita Baniulytė, Dovilė Baniulytė, Reid Fanelli, Nicholas Fanelli and Rasa Miliauskaitė

Ministros de Comunión

Front Row: from left to right:
María González, Martha Padilla, Micaela Sixtos, Rosario González, Carmen Llamas,
Laura Franco and Josefina Paredes.
Second Row: from left to right:
Eliseo Arredondo, Juan Sixtos, Rev. Armando Ramírez-Ruiz, Juan Franco and Everardo Coss.
Missing from the photo: Silvia Maciel

Grupo De Liturgia

Front Row: from left to right:
María González, Martha Padilla, Micaela Sixtos, Rosario González, Carmen Llamas,
Laura Franco and Josefina Paredes.
Second Row: from left to right:
Eliseo Arredondo, Juan Sixtos, Rev. Armando Ramírez-Ruiz, Juan Franco and Everardo Coss.
Missing from the photo: Silvia Maciel

OPUS DEI Study group

Front (left to right): John McCartney (moderator), Rev. Robert Coleman, Brian McVey. Back: Angelo Paone, Bernard Judeikis, Thomas Cline, Victor Kelmelis, Michael Donahue.

Rondalla San Juan Bautista

Benito Zuluaga, Raúl Téllez, Oziel Virto y Salvador Porcayo

Spanish Lectors Lectores de Misa en Español

Front Row: left to right:
Liz Martínez, Carmen Llamas, Graciela Andrade and Patricia Fajardo.
Second Row: left to right:
Gudelia Castro, Carlos Martínez, Érica Sandoval, Ariane Moya, María Hueramo and Josefina Paredes.
Third Row: left to right
Roberto Rodriguez, Angel Mendoza, Noemi Romero and Everardo Coss

The Knights of Lithuania, Council 36 (Vyčiai)

Evelyn Oželis, President
(center, tall lady with glasses)
The Knights of Lithuania, Council 36, has been part of Immaculate Conception Parish since 1915, when the council was established.

Ushers
12:00 Spanish Mass

Front (left to right):
Francisco Guardado,
Armando Mora,
Mario, Daniel Maciel.

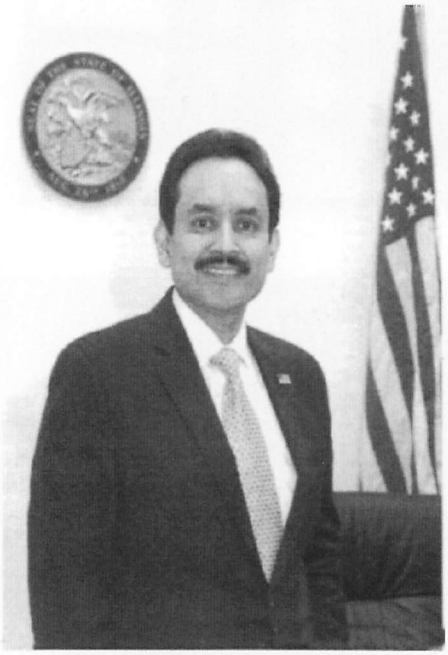
Second row (left to right)
Juan Sixtos,
Robertino Castañeda,
Rev. Armando Ramirez-Ruiz,
Rev. Robert Coleman,
Pablo Padilla.

Voluntad Divina
Young Adult Group

Grupo de Jóvenes Adultos

Ángel Mendoza, Coordinador

Congratulations to Immaculate Conception Parish on their 100th Anniversary and continued commitment to the families of our community.



Tony Munoz
State Senator • 1st District
Assistant Majority Leader
Committeeman • 12th Ward

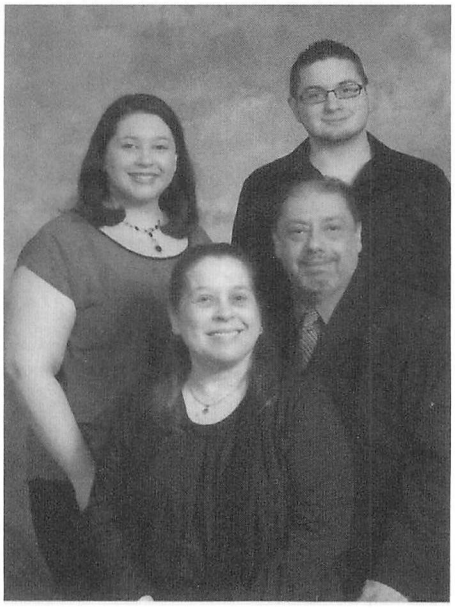
Capitol Office
323 State Capitol
Springfield, IL 62706
Tel: (217) 782-9415

District Office
1836 W. 35th St.
Chicago, IL 60609
Tel: (773) 869-9050

✝ Charles Henry Frayer

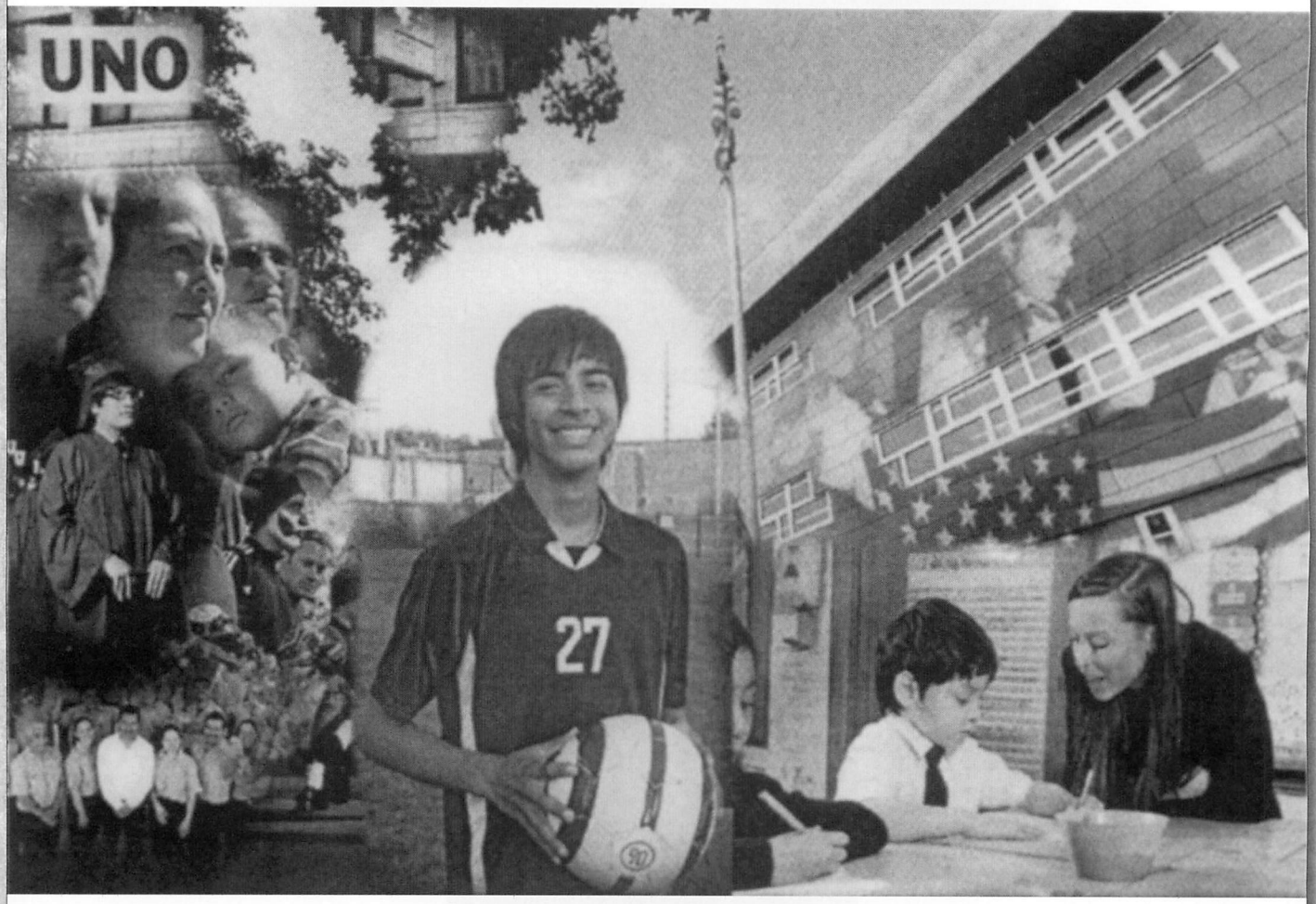
Great things were born in 1914;
Immaculate Conception Church, Wrigley Field, and You, Dad!

HAPPY CENTENNIAL

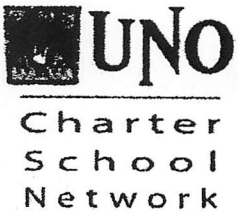


The Frayer Family

Leading the transformation of the Hispanic community



How will you transform?
www.uno-online.org



Congratulations

Immaculate Conception Parish

From

Pope John Paul II Catholic School

We are so honored and blessed to be your parish school!

Pope John Paul II School – 4325 S. Richmond
773-523-6161 - www.pjpiischool.com

We believe in our Catholic faith - We believe in the Pope John Paul II Community
We believe in helping others - We believe in excellence

The Kelmelis, Plačas and Kudirka Families
Congratulate Immaculate Conception on
its 100 year Jubilee! Ilgiausių Metų!

Palos Medical Group

Andrius Kudirka, M.D., MPH, FAAFP

Board Certified Family Physician

15300 West Avenue
Suite 221
Orland Park, IL 60462

Phone: (708) 590-5300
Fax: (708) 590-5310

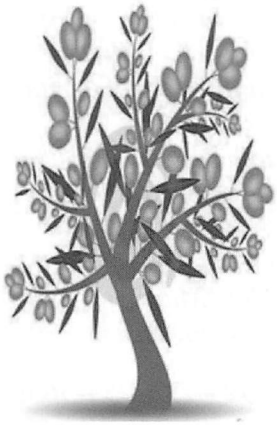
Amžina atilsį duok mirusiems Viešpatie,
ir Amžinoji Šviesa jiems tešviecia.
Tegul ilsisi ramybėje. Amen.

+ Viktoras ir Bronė Kelmeliai

+ Juozas ir Marija Plačai

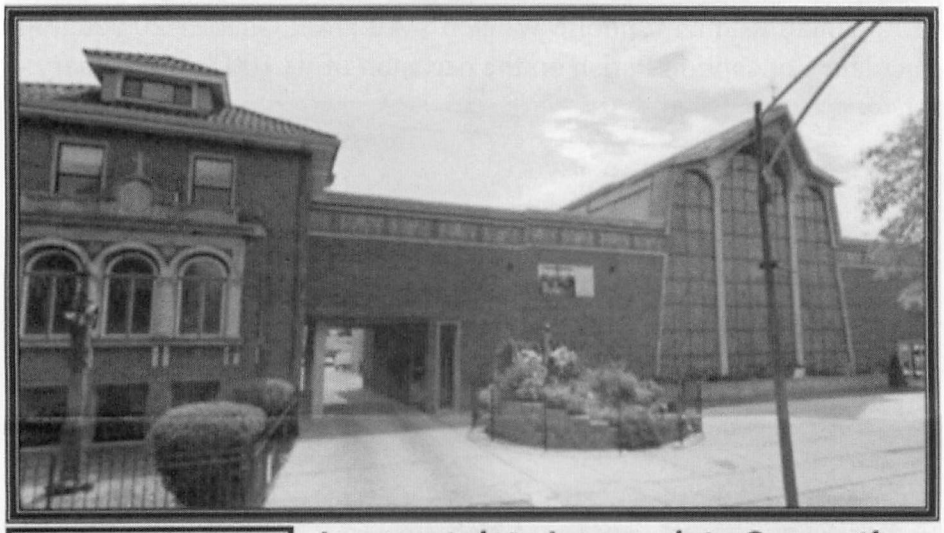
American Lithuanian Roman Catholic Women's Alliance, Chapter 20 congratulates Immaculate Conception Parish on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

Top row: Nijolė Grincevičiutė, Regina Vadeiša, Alina Vadeiša, Alvira Gedaminas, Palmyra Gilienė, Janina Davidavičienė, Dana Baniulienė, Joana Drūtys, Raminta Mikuckienė, Emilijia Pretkelis, Birutė Peleckas, Vida Tijūnėlis, Kristina Palijanskienė, Regina Jauneikienė, Phyllis Danta, Daiva Petersonas. **Front row:** Salomėja Daulys, Danutė Zailskas, Edita Giedraitis, Elena Sparkis, Stasė Petersonas, Rev. Robert Coleman, Rev. Gediminas Keršys, Elena Majauskas, Marytė Neniškis, Stefa Miliauskas, Rasa Miliauskas, Bronė Maleckienė.



Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
4477 S. Archer Ave.
Chicago, IL 60632
773-523-7110

United for our community
Unidos para nuestra comunidad



I congratulate Immaculate Conception Parish for their 100 years and wish them many more. I am proud to serve the community alongside them.

- Alderman George A. Cardenas
12th Ward

Five Holy Martyrs Parish
CONGRATULATES
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
and shares its
THANKSGIVING FOR 100 YEARS
of being a beacon and witness of Christian Faith
in the Brighton Park neighborhood,
and for all the blessings received and shared during those years.

We wish The Immaculate Conception Parish
to continue its ministry to new generations
inspired and guided by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
May every person seeking God find their way
and be nourished by the spiritual and cultural heritage
as preserved and passed on
in the American, Lithuanian and Hispanic
traditions of the Immaculate Conception Parish.

With prayers,
the Parishioners of Five Holy Martyrs
and Father Tomasz Sielicki SChr, Pastor

Five Holy Martyrs Parish - 4327 South Richmond Street, Chicago, IL 60632 - 773-254-3636

Best Wishes from

The 14th Ward Regular Democratic Organization
2650 West 51st Street
Chicago, IL 60632
773/471-1414

Alderman Edward M. Burke
Ward Committeeman

State Representative Daniel J. Burke
1st District

Precinct Captains and Members

Congratulations

On the Celebration of the 100th Year Anniversary of

Immaculate Conception Church

The Jankis Family

Irene and Daughters, Janice and Judith

With special Remembrance of

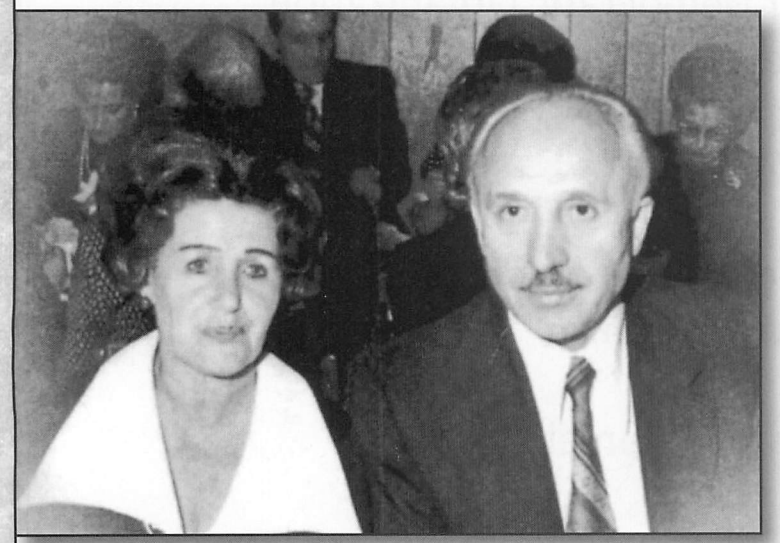
Joseph J. Jankis, Jr. III

Walter and Eleanor Bartkus

Mary and John Klimasauskas Joseph J. Jankis, Jr. II

And all of the members of the Jankis, Bartkus, and Utites Families, as well as Friends

In Loving Memory of



SOFIJA JONYNAS

Lithuanian Class teacher at Immaculate Conception School, who taught hundreds of IC schoolchildren to treasure their Lithuanian heritage

KAZIMIERAS JONYNAS

who served Immaculate Conception Parish faithfully as usher and committeeman for many years

Rūta Jonynas Staniulis (IC Class of 1961)
Kęstutis Jonynas (IC Class of 1966)
Darius Juška (IC Class of 1984)

Sveikiname Nekalto Prasidėjimo Parapiją 100 metų proga!

The Lithuanian American Community, Inc.
Brighton Park Chapter
Congratulates
Immaculate Conception Parish
on it's 100th year Jubilee!

The Lithuanian Catholic Press Society
Publishers of DRAUGAS AND DRAUGAS NEWS

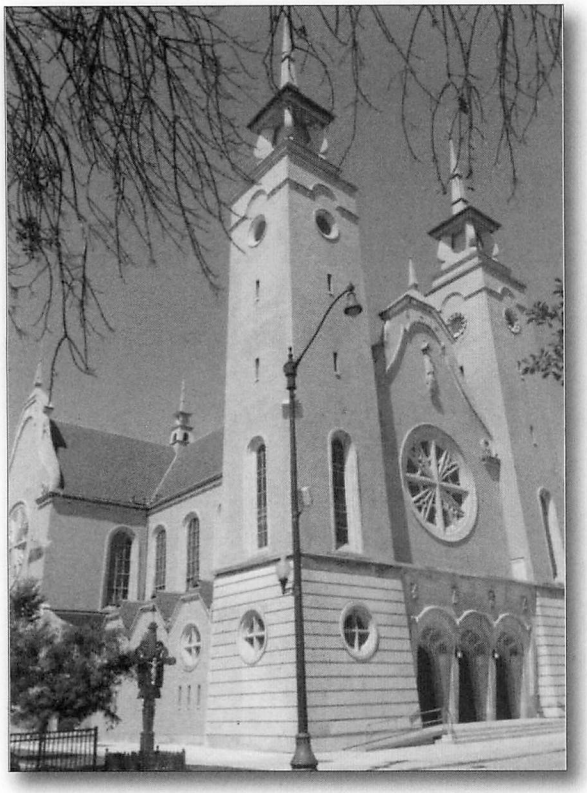
Congratulate Immaculate Conception Parish on 100 great years!

Visit us at draugas.org and draugasnews.org

Phone: (773) 585-9500

Congratulations and God's Blessings,
Immaculate Conception Parish,
on your 100 Year Anniversary.
Ilgiausių Metų!
Best wishes for the next 100 years from the Lithuanian Mass Lectors, Cantors,
Altar Servers and Church Choir

Congratulations Immaculate Conception, a church we helped build.
Vacys and Bronė Maleckas family



Nativity BVM Parish Congratulate

Immaculate Conception Parish

On the occation of it's 100th Anniversary

Pastor Jaunius Kelpsas and Parishioners

Sunday Mass:
4:00 p.m. (Saturday)
9:30 a.m. Eng. / 11:00 a.m. Lithuanian

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Chicago, Illinois 60629
Phone: 773-776-4600
Fax: 773-776-0677
E-mail: nativity6812@yahoo.com
Facebook : Nativity BVM

Švč. M. Marijos Gimimo Parapija sveikina Marijos Nekaltojo Prasidėjimo Parapiją su 100 metų Jubiliejumi.

Klebonas Jaunius Kelpsas ir parapijiečiai

RAYMOND LOPEZ

✶15TH WARD COMMITTEEMAN✶

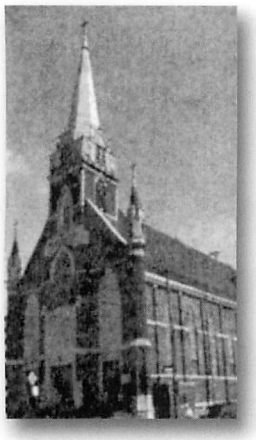
WWW.THE15THWARD.ORG

Friends & Neighbors,

I am honored to support Immaculate Conception Parish's one hundred years of faith, family and fellowship in our Brighton Park community.

Hon. Raymond A. Lopez
Committeeman - 15th Ward

MATILDA CHIPS
3247 S. Western Ave
Chicago, IL 60608
(312)285-7221



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EN SU CELEBRACIÓN DE
CENTENARIO PARROQUIAL

"Hagan que todos los pueblos sean mis discípulos, bautizándolos en el nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo, y enseñándoles a cumplir todo lo que yo les he mandado"*(Mt 28,19-20)*

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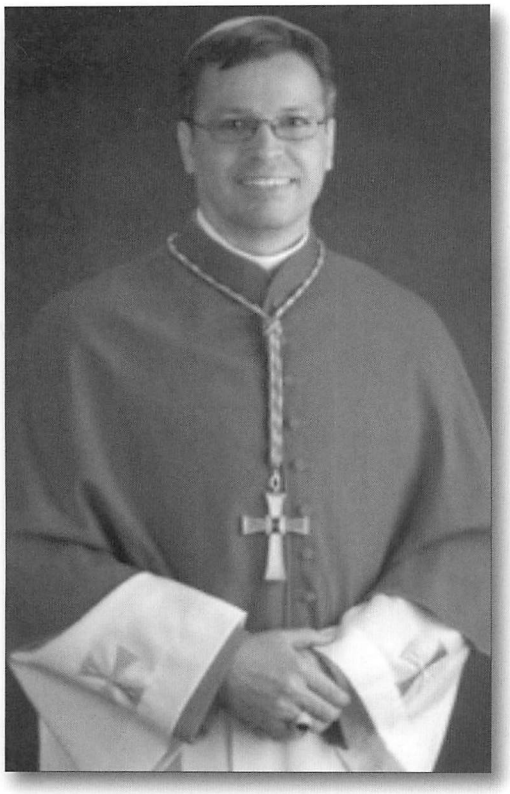


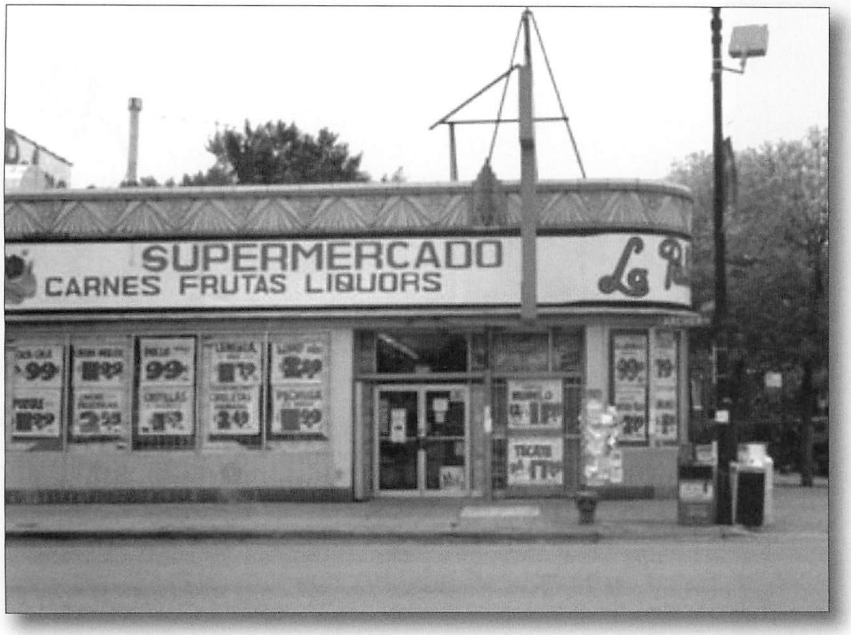
Most Reverend Alberto Rojas

Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago

Vicariate III Team
1850 S. Throop
Chicago, IL 60608

St. James at Sag Bridge

Rev. Thomas Koys, Pastor
10600 S. Archer Avenue
Lemont, IL 60439
630-257-7000



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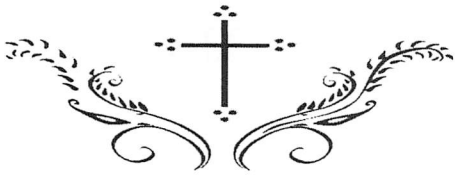
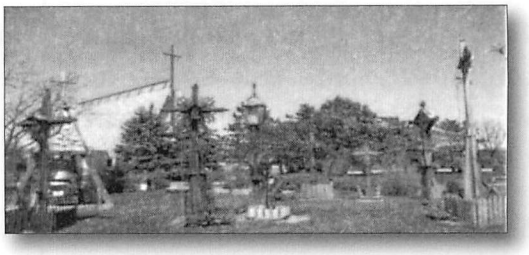
In Memory of
Wally Balis
Helen Balis
and Carol Balis

In God's Loving Care

Richard Balis
Nancy Wilson
Clayton Wilson



Congratulations, Immaculate Conception !!!



Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Lithuanian
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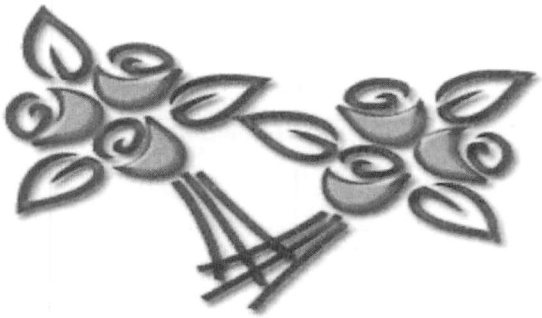
¡Felicidades
Inmaculada Concepción
en su Celebración de
100 años!

Congratulations and God's Blessings
to Immaculate Conception Parish
on the Centennial Jubilee.

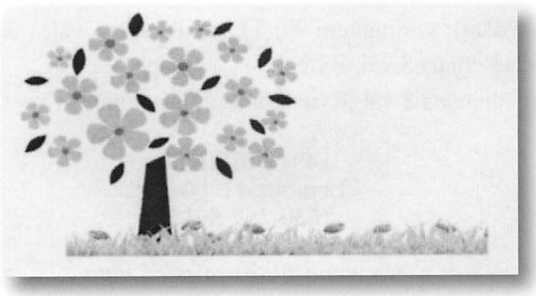
Florencia Díaz & Cynthia Candia



Much joy and happiness to our Immaculate Conception Church and continued God's blessings and best wishes on this 100th anniversary to all the Priests, Sisters and Parishioners.

Telaimina Dievas mūsų parapiją ir visus parapijiečius dar kitą 100 metų.

Alvira Gedaminas



JAV

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The officers and members of the Knights of Lithuania Mid-America District send our sincerest and heartiest congratulations to the Staff and Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish as you celebrate your 100th Anniversary

Wishing you all the best for the future.

Valio! Valio! Valio!

Member Councils of the Mid-America District

Council 36 – Chicago, IL (Brighton Park)
(PART OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH SINCE 1915)

Council 5 – Chicago, IL (Northside)
Council 16 – Chicago, IL (Bridgeport)
Council 38 – Kenosha, WI
Council 70 – Milwaukee, WI
Council 82 – Gary, IN
Council 112 – Chicago, IL (Marquette Park)
Council 133 – Los Angeles, CA
Council 157 – Lemont, IL
Chicago Seniors

Leonard & Ellen Kondrot

The General Daukantas
Lithuanian National Honor Guard
(Šauliai)

From left to right are:
Sigitas Savickas (leader) and
Flag Bearers Severinas Dubenkas,
Vilius Gaveika and Petras Valius

For many decades,
the Lithuanian National Honor Guard has enhanced
the processions of various masses, celebrations,
funerals and memorials at Immaculate Conception.

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St. Anthony Parish
(founded in 1911)
Congratulates
Immaculate Conception Parish
on its 100th Anniversary

Arkivyskupas Jurgis Matulaitis pašventino Šv. Antano parapijos bažnyčią 1926 metais, apaštalikiško vizito metu.

Šv. Mišios lietuvių kalba kas sekmadienį 9:00 ryto.

St. Anthony Parish
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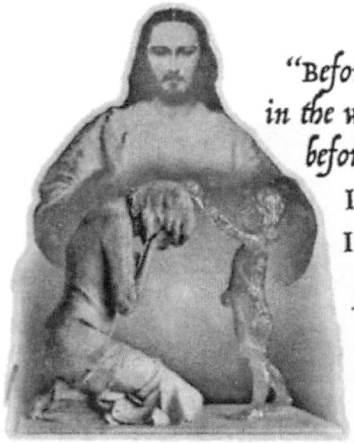
Joe & Audrey Panek

Congratulations
from
John & Suncha Pieza

Dieve laimink mūsų parapiją parapijiečius ir šeimas.

Emilija Pretkelis

Lord, Forgive Her, she did not see
that the child in her womb was really ME



"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you came to birth, I consecrated you; I appointed you as prophet to the nations."
(Jeremiah 1:5)

For healing and hope for those suffering from the effects of abortion, please call PROJECT RACHEL AT
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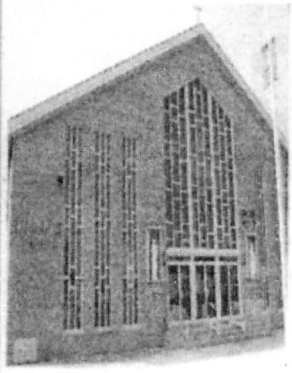
In loving Memory of
James, Anna & Edward Rokos
Dolly & Bobby

Greetings to Immaculate Conception on your 100th year Parish Anniversary!



It is with great joy and love that we extend to you our greetings. We pray for God's rich blessings upon you and may the Triune God enable you to accomplish the enormous tasks entrusted to you.

Rev. Fr. Diego F. Cudavid
Pastor
and Parishioners

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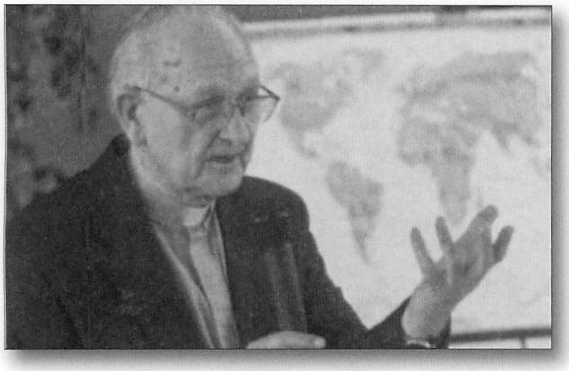
Inmaculada Concepcion

CIEN ANOS APOYANDO A NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

1914-2014

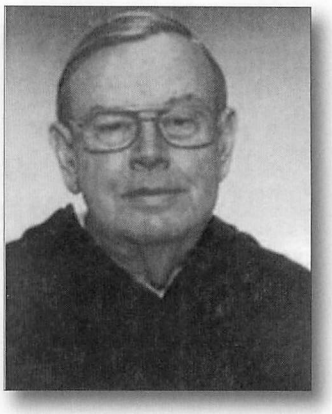
In Memorian
Rev. Dr. Kęstutis A. Trimakas
(1930-2013)



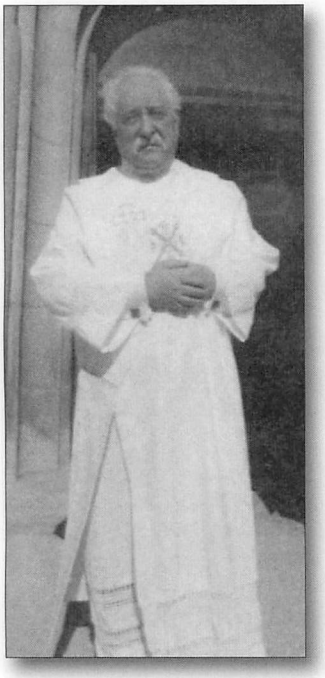
From 2010 through 2012 Father Trimakas helped keep the Lithuanian Mass going at Immaculate Conception.

In Memoriam

Rev. Dr. Augustinas M. Kulbis, O.S.M.
(1931-2014)

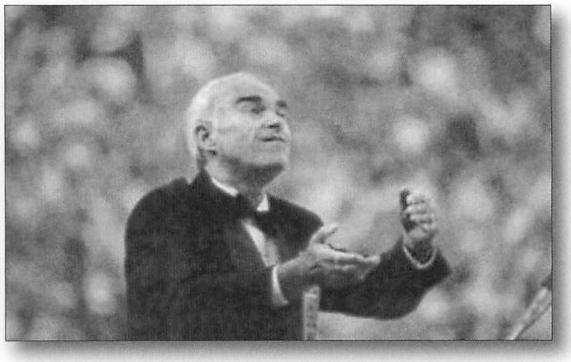


From 2010 through 2012
Father Kulbis helped keep the Lithuanian Mass going at Immaculate Conception.



In Memoriam
Deacon Vitas Paškauskas
Major, U.S. Army, Retired
(1947-2014)

Deacon Vitas Paškaukas was ordained in 1999 and served at Nativity BVM Parish. Over the last 15 years Deacon Vitas also helped out from time to time with Lithuanian Masses at Immaculate Conception.



In Memoriam
Faustas Strolia
(1931-2014)

In 1977 and 1978 Faustas Strolia was an organist and choir director at Immaculate Conception. Over the last 50 years, Mr. Strolia and his Knights of Lithuania Choir performed many concerts and programs in our church and Parish Hall.

Centennial

R. Liboon, M.D., S.C.

Marin Funeral Home & Cremation services

Carl and Carol Heid Family

Janina Rachas

Kazys and Salome Daulys Family

Most Rev. Andrew P. Wypych D.D. Auxiliary Bishop Vicariate V

All Saints – St. Anthony

St. Pancratius Parish

Bridgeport Catholic Academy

Vytautas and Elsa Svelnys Family

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Lidia Leon

St. Simon the Apostle

Evangelina Flores

Lucille N. Kilkus

El Rodeo Supermercado

✝ *In Memoriam*

Mikalauskas Family
Anna and Vincent Paukstis

Luis Bautista Vallejo

Viktoras and Bronė Kelmelis

Rev. Edward J. Maxa

Kazys Majauskas

Petronėlė Eidukevičienė

Antanas and Ona Drūtys

Petras Peleckas

Dorothy Matela

Vacys Maleckas, husband,
father, grandfather

Maria de Jesus Prieto

Jonas Rachas

Ona and Petronele Juodvalkis

Frank and Constance Davis

Augustas Pretkelis

Amadeo Leon

Vicente Estrada

Wendy Shviraga

Mečys and Janina Mikutaitis

Margarito Encina

Maria Encarnacion Medellin
De Encina

Maria Herlinda Encina

Vladas Samsonas

Angela Cetkauskas

Rev. Dr. Kestutis Trimakas

Rev. Dr. Augustinas Kulbis

Justin and Mary Kinčius

Juozas and Marija Plačas

Rev. Jonas Plankis

Rev. Fabijonas Kireilis

Anelė Ramanauskas

Aleksas Smilga

Louis Zurlis

Casimir and Lucille Zurlis

Leo Sr., and Helen Baran

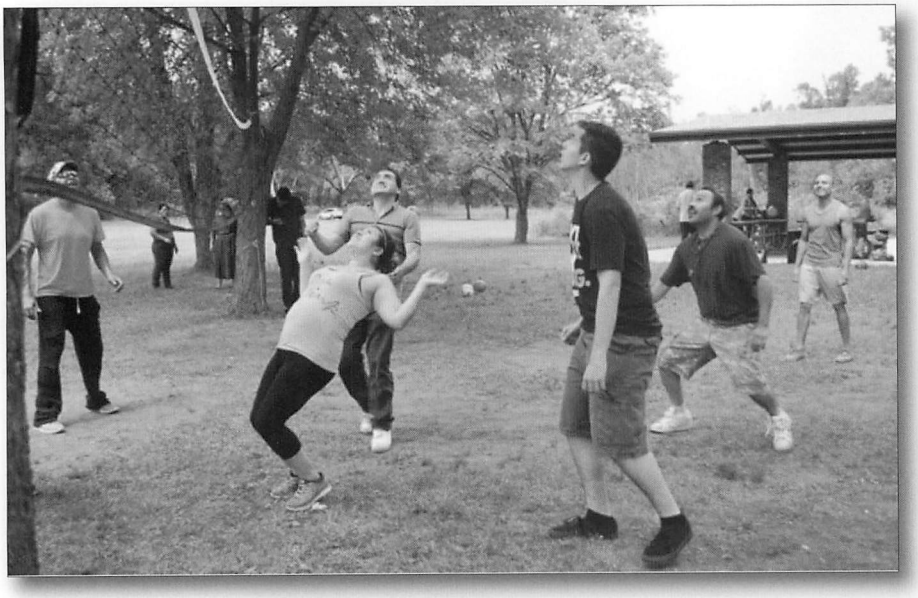
Kazys Oželis

Algis (Frank) Zailskas

Vytautas Jučas

Povilas Juodvalkis

Final Fun-Filled Frolics From Our Centennial Year



Summer Fun!

Keep dancing.

Dance is a conversation between body & soul.

La danza es una conversación entre el cuerpo y el alma.

Souls in love with God are always joyful.